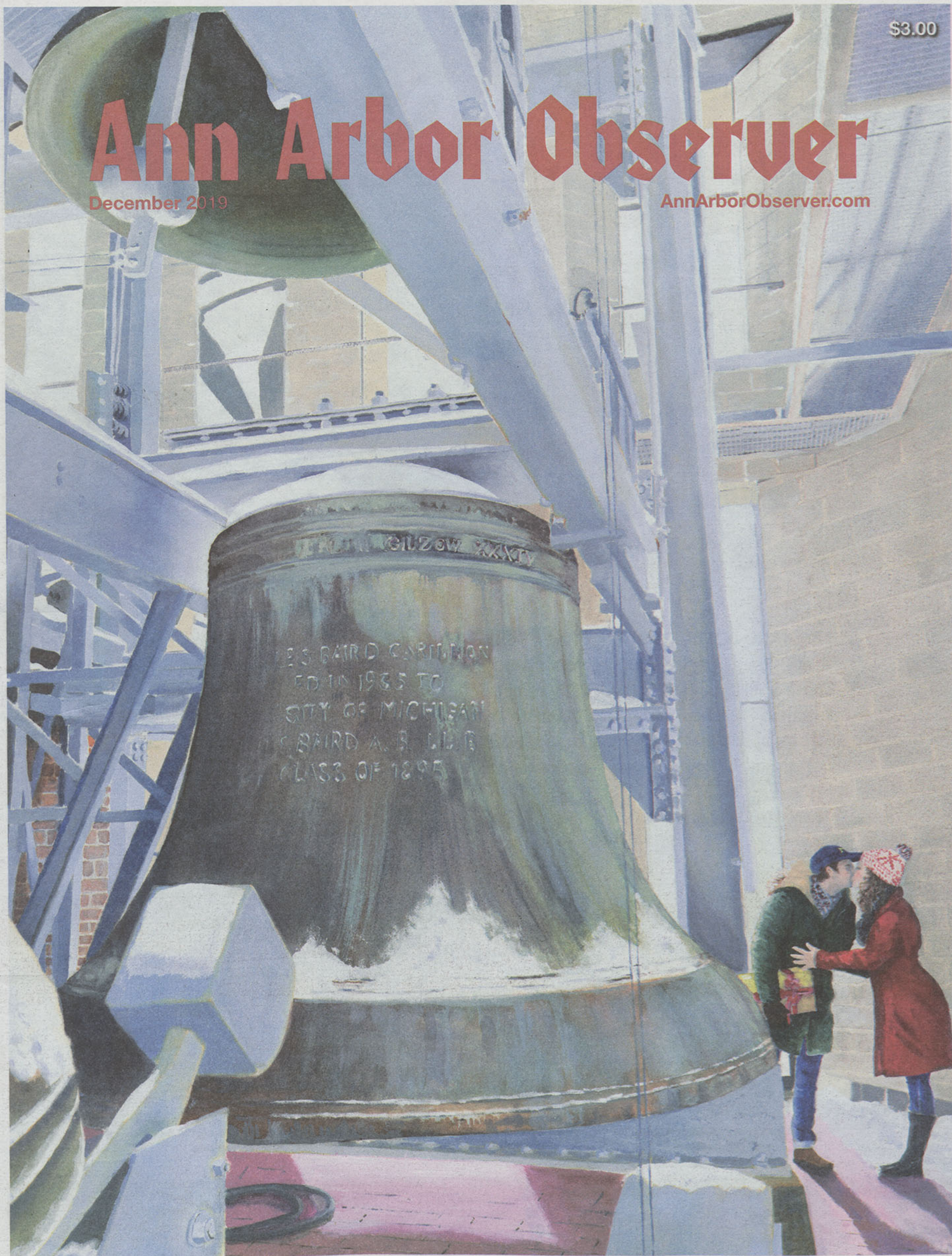


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December 2019

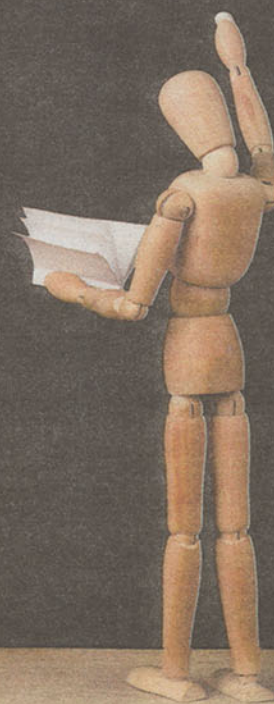
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Sun 12/1 at 4 pm [Thanksgiving Weekend]
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UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Scott Hanoian, conductor
Jeanine De Bique, soprano

Allegra De Vita, mezzo-soprano
Taylor Stayton, tenor
Philippe Sly, baritone

Sat 12/7 at 8 pm | Sun 12/8 at 2 pm
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Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello

with Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano

Tue 12/10 at 7:30 pm
Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Beethoven	Twelve Variations on Mozart's "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen" from <i>The Magic Flute</i>
Lutoslawski	Grave
Barber	Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 6
Rachmaninoff	Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op. 19

The winner of the 2016 BBC Young Musician competition, Sheku Kanneh-Mason comes to Ann Arbor twice this season: in this solo recital with his older sister, Isata, the night before his Carnegie Hall debut, and again in April 2020 with the Chineke! Orchestra in Hill Auditorium.

Exclusive Presenting Sponsor: Helmut F. and Candis J. Stern Endowment Fund

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Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce

Taylor Mac, creator and performer
Machine Dazzle, set and costume designer
Matt Ray, music direction and arrangements
Niegel Smith, co-director

Sat 12/14 at 8 pm | Sun 12/15 at 4 pm
Power Center

Taylor Mac returns to Ann Arbor with the ultimate holiday survival guide, taking the season head-on and celebrating all of its dysfunction. "Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce plies acerbic wit, subversive politics, circus pageantry, sartorial riot, and boundless compassion to the holidays." (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

This production contains adult themes.

Lead Presenting Sponsor: Renegade Venture Fund, established by the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation

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Hugo Wolf's Complete Mörike Songs Martin Katz and Friends What's in a Song

Sarah Shafer, soprano
Susan Platts, mezzo-soprano
Daniel McGrew, tenor

Jesse Blumberg, baritone
Martin Katz, piano

Part 1: Fri 1/10 at 8 pm | Part 2: Sun 1/12 at 4 pm
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

An all-star cast of vocalists brings Hugo Wolf's 53-song set to the poetry of Eduard Mörike to life over two different concerts. Wolf's music perfectly matches the verbal rhythm and vocal inflections of the poetry, with an emotional insight that makes each song a reincarnation of the poem in another medium.

Exclusive Presenting Sponsor (Friday): Maurice and Linda Binkow Vocal and Chamber Arts Endowment Fund

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Sun 1/19 at 7 pm
Michigan Theater

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Co-presented with the Michigan Theater.

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Minnesota Orchestra

Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Elina Vähälä, violin
UMS Choral Union
Sat 1/25 at 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM

Sibelius	Snöfrid (Snowy Peace), Op. 29
Sibelius	Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47
Sibelius	Symphony No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 82

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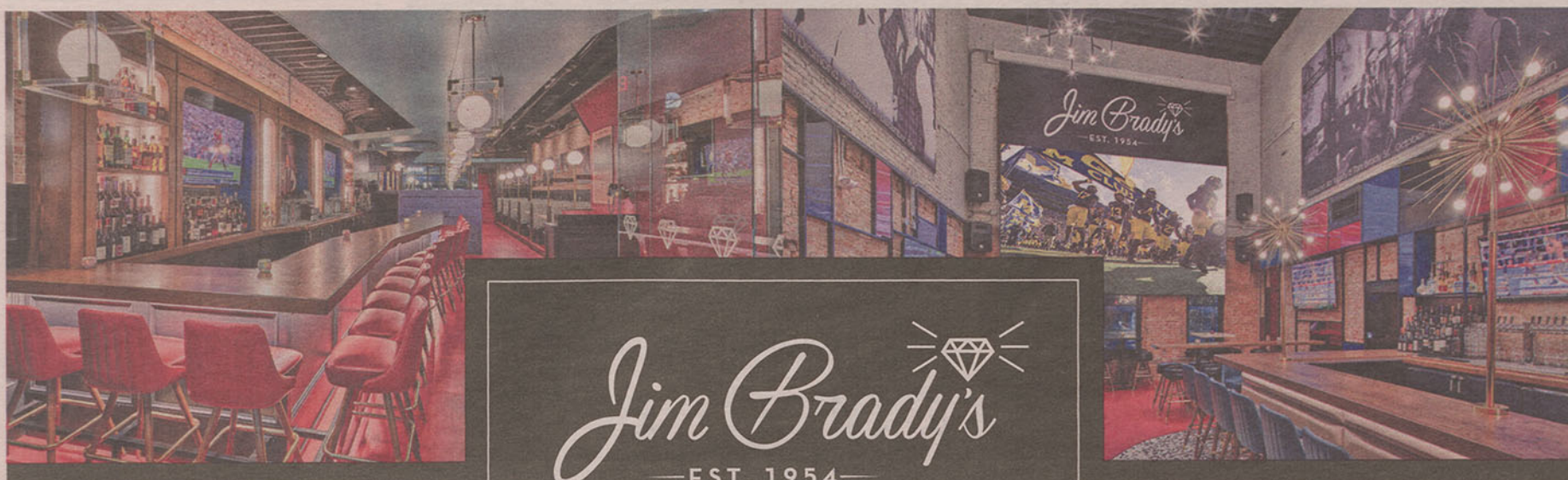
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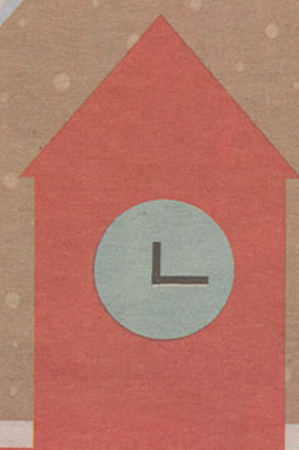
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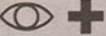
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December 2019

vol. 44 • no. 4

Cover: Ring Time: Big Baird, Brian, and Elizabeth at Burton Memorial Tower.



features

- 31 Xander's Miracle**
The Pioneer freshman beat terminal illness—and became a medical chimera.
Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

- 35 The Mission of Catalina Kaiyoorawongs**
The Ross grad passed up corporate jobs to develop an employee perk that really matters: help with student debts.
Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

departments

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11 Up Front
<i>John Hilton, Craig Ross, Kati Shanks, Sandor Slomovits</i> | 29 My Town
<i>Neil Haldeman</i> |
| 13 Inside Ann Arbor
<i>Tim Athan, Madeline Strong Diehl, Michael Betzold, James Leonard, Fionn Pooler</i> | 39 Restaurant Reviews
<i>M.B. Lewis, Micheline Maynard, Fionn Pooler</i> |
| 23 Outside
<i>Bob & Jorja Feldman</i> | 43 Marketplace Changes
<i>Sabine Bickford</i> |
| 25 Crime Map | 80 Home Sales Map
<i>Sue Maguire</i> |
| 27 Ann Arborites
<i>Shelley Daily</i> | 83 Back Page
<i>Sally Bjork, Jay Forstner</i> |

what's happening



- 56 Music at Nightspots**
John Hinchey & James M. Manheim
Shows at the Ark, the Blind Pig, and more, plus a review of esoteric singer-songwriter Livingston Taylor.
- 59 Events**
Ella Bourland, John Hinchey, Maggie McMillin
Daily events in Ann Arbor in December, including our new Seniors Calendar, p. 61; Films, p. 70; new exhibits at local Galleries, p. 73; and Kids Calendar, p. 74. Plus reviews of poet Arthur Sze, jazz drummer Louis Hayes, and cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason.
- 84 Events at a Glance**

advertising sections

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 45 Holiday Guide | 76 Classifieds |
| 77 Real Estate Section | 82 Services & Advertiser Index |

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Howard returns: John Beilein's decision to leave Michigan for the NBA came as a shock. In his twelve years, Michigan earned nine NCAA appearances, with five serious title runs—a welcome turnaround after a dolorous decade for men's basketball.

His successor traded the NBA for the NCAA: Juwan Howard spent the last six years as an NBA assistant. Before that, of course, he was a member of Michigan's Fab Five, the first player to leave school early for the pros and still graduate with his class, and the first to sign a \$100 million contract.

That makes the roughly \$1 million AD Warde Manuel offered him seem like a pittance. It's low even by Big Ten standards, and about \$2 million less than Beilein was making. But Howard has never been a head coach and has never coached in college.

Howard retained assistant Saddi Washington but brought in longtime St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli, NBA vet Howard Eisley, and Jay Smith, a U-M assistant from the Fab Days. And he made smart PR moves, attending Michigan football games and handing out free doughnuts to students on the Diag.

He lost one of Beilein's 2019 recruits but was able to hold onto forward Cole Bajema and reel in forward Franz Wagner (Moe's brother, currently out with a wrist injury). For 2020, he's already inked the most coveted player in Ohio, Zeb Jackson, and has an oral commitment from five-star recruit Isaiah Todd.

He'll need them: graduation and NBA defection left Michigan with only nine players and none of its top scorers. After Wagner's injury most evaluators had

Michigan finishing between fifth and ninth in the Big Ten.

Two non-conference victories weren't exactly reassuring: The Wolverines blew a thirty-point lead before edging Appalachian State, and Creighton demolished Michigan on the defensive boards.

The Wolverines should improve as their untested players gain experience—but Howard's first squad will do well to finish mid-pack in the Big Ten.



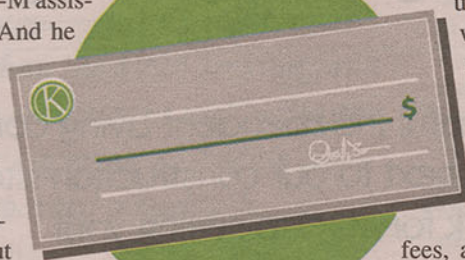
Give and learn: The Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor is getting smarter about giving out college scholarships to local high school grads. "We used to just present them with a check," says past president Harry Cross. "We hoped it was going to higher education, but who knows?"

"So in 2011 we started requiring proof of enrollment," Cross adds. "But then we discovered that many schools would just deduct from other financial aid whatever we gave them—so the net benefit to the student was zero, and what we were doing was subsidizing the institution."

Instead, the club is now directing its entire scholarship budget—\$72,000—to Washtenaw Community College. The school "assured us [the recipients] wouldn't be penalized in terms of other aid," Cross says. And at just \$3,500 to cover a student's tuition,

fees, and books, for a full year, "it's an awful lot of bang for the buck."

Members donated most of the funds in response to a challenge grant from the Cross family foundation, but \$18,000 comes from the club's used-goods sales at its new headquarters in Scio Township. Cross fought the decision to leave downtown, but he says the new facility brought them "a new clientele in terms of donation and buyers from outlying areas."



In its last year downtown, Cross says, the three-hour Saturday sale "was averaging probably \$7,000 to \$8,000 per week." Now with two four-hour sales (9 a.m.–1 p.m. Friday and Saturday), "we're doing \$20,000, and we've hit \$25,000." The club closed its fiscal year at the end of September with gross receipts of more than \$1 million—an all-time record.

Stielstra's songbook: Jay Stielstra jokes that his simple formula for writing 100 songs is to write two a year for fifty years. He's actually written more than 180 songs in the past fifty-some years—though "sometimes I made up ten songs in a year and sometimes none." Along the way, Stielstra, eighty-five, also wrote seven plays, including the much-loved *North Country Opera*, built around his music.

Now fifty-two of his songs have been collected in a book, *Heaven for Me*. It's the brainchild of his longtime friend, Nada Rakic, who years ago directed one of Stielstra's plays, *A Better Way to Die*.

Stielstra's wife, Barbara Schmid, helped convince him to agree to the project, and she and Rakic edited the book. They recruited Judy Banker, who has played guitar and sung with Stielstra for years, as music editor. Musicians Chris Buhalis and Dick Siegel, former Ark director Dave Siglin, and environmentalist Lana Pollack contributed introductions.

The four sections of the book showcase the major themes of Stielstra's songs; love of nature, and particularly of Michigan's north country; love songs; reflections on aging and the ephemeral nature of life; and

protest songs about war, the environment, and social justice.

Heaven for Me provides lead sheets—words and melody, plus guitar chords—for each song, but also displays the lyrics on separate pages. Consistent with Stielstra's unassuming nature, only about a fifth of the photographs, paintings, and drawings in the book are of him. Reflecting the subjects of Stielstra's songs, the rest are nature scenes.

At a recent gathering at Johnny's Speakeasy to celebrate the release of the songbook, local musicians sang Stielstra's songs and talked about what the man and his music have meant to them. When one singer blanked on a line, voices from the audience supplied the missing lyric. The \$30 book is available by emailing nadarakic@yahoo.com.

Tagged: Two sure signs of December in downtown Ann Arbor are the twinkle of white lights in the trees and packs of medical students clad in red ponchos and carrying buckets. The students are members of the Galens Medical Society, whose annual Tag Days have been a local institution since 1927.

That first year they collected \$1,000 to provide a Christmas dinner for children spending the holidays at University Hospital. Last year, 175 volunteers raised \$81,000 last year to support programs for young people across Washtenaw County.

Each donor receives a brightly colored tag that can be tied to the zipper of a winter coat. While the drive is underway, it can be next to impossible to navigate the city without running into a neighbor who's been tagged. This year, the Galens will be out in force Thursday, December 5 through Saturday, December 7.



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Inside Ann Arbor

Narrow Win

Voters approved—barely—a \$1 billion bond to rebuild the public schools.

Three times in three years superintendent Jeanice Swift has asked voters for money for the Ann Arbor Public Schools. The first two times she got it by overwhelming margins.

Not this time. Voters grudgingly passed the schools' epic \$1 billion bond request by a slim 53-47 percent margin. Compare that with the commanding 70-30 vote to more than double the district's sinking fund millage in 2017 and last year's colossal 76-24 margin to renew its operating millage.

The tax increase—\$248 annually for a home with a taxable value of \$150,000—wasn't much more than the \$225 for the sinking fund. But the staggering \$1 billion total sparked a backlash. While all three requests had independent support committees providing positive lawn signs, only this one had a negative lawn sign campaign—sometimes displayed beside “Support Ann Arbor Teachers” signs. (The teachers' union remained pointedly neutral on the bond.) And social media chatter trended negative.

The heated debate motivated voters. In total 24,103 folks cast ballots on the bond issue, more than twice the number who voted on last year's operating extension. Support was strongest in the city and the more affordable neighborhoods in Pittsfield and Scio, but even in Ann Arbor half a dozen precincts voted no.

Absentee votes were 25 percent of the total, up from 22 percent last year and 15 percent in 2017. “We're certainly seeing an increase in the number of absentee

The tax increase—\$248 annually for a typical home—wasn't much more than the \$225 sinking fund expansion in 2017. But the staggering \$1 billion total sparked a backlash.

ballots cast as a result of ‘no reason’ absentee voting and the public's awareness of the convenience of voting absentee,” emails Ed Golembiewski, Washtenaw County's chief deputy clerk and director of elections.

In 2017 and 2018, absentees were more tax-averse than in-person voters. This year they were more supportive, voting yes by 56 percent to 44 percent. The enlarged absentee electorate may be more liberal, but

timing could also explain the difference: absentees who voted early would have been less influenced by the last-minute “no” campaign.

Whatever the reason, the absentees were not decisive: looking at “the total number of ballots cast in this election (24,103 vs. 13,584 in 2017), the difference is much greater than the increase in absentee ballots voted,” Golembiewski

writes. “The timing of this election (May vs. November), content of the proposal, media/societal attention to voting in general, all factor in as well.”

A narrow win is still a win. Since her hiring in 2013, the tireless superintendent has raised the district's enrollment and turned around its fragile finances. Now Swift has the resources to update Ann Arbor's schools for generations to come.

Problem Priest

Last spring, a local high school belatedly warned parents about an octogenarian British cleric.

“Fr. [Patrick] Egan has been communicating with one of our families seeking to work out,” wrote Gabriel Richard High School president John DeJak. DeJak added that he “would discourage any contact of any minor or young adult with Fr. Egan.”

It was a startling fall from grace for the popular priest, a former assistant pastor at Christ the King Catholic Church at Domino's Farms and chaplain for Domino's founder Tom Monaghan's Ave Maria Radio and Ave Maria Foundation. Egan's undoing: the unusual boxing lessons he liked to give to young males.

Twenty-five years apart, two men complained that Egan's lessons had sexual elements. The diocese of Lansing brushed off one accuser and threatened to sue the other before bishop Earl Boyea finally defrocked Egan in the fall of 2018 for what the bishop called “credible allegations” of “inappropriate sexual behavior with an adult male.”

The final straw seems to have been Egan's insistence on seeking out sparring partners. “[T]wo years ago, the Bishop told Fr. Pat to cease and desist from any and all boxing-related activities,” Christ the King pastor Fr. Ed Fride wrote in the church bulletin last spring. “Unfortunately, Fr. Pat did not comply with that order.” Fride advised: “Fr. Pat is not to engage in workout activities with anyone, period. If someone is visiting Fr. Pat, two people minimum should be part of the visit.”

Steve Wiland first tried to blow the whistle on Egan thirty years earlier. Now a lecturer in the U-M School of Social Work and director of the U-M's online Addictions Certificate Program, Wiland met Egan in the late 1980s, when the priest became his spiritual mentor in the charismatic Word of God community.

Egan invited Wiland to join the U-M boxing club, where he was a volunteer coach. At first, Wiland says, things went well. But after he hurt his back, Egan offered “special drills” to increase his pain tolerance. Wiland says Egan would punch him in the face, abdomen, and groin. But when he touched his testicles through his gym shorts, Wiland quit. He later wrote to Egan: “there is a formal name for your ‘drills’ in the statute of law, and it is called ‘criminal sexual conduct.’”

Wiland took his concerns to Word of God leaders and to then-bishop Kenneth Povish. But without interviewing Wiland, a diocesan review board deemed his

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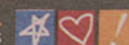
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Inside Ann Arbor

allegations “not credible.” The diocese didn’t report the allegations to the Washtenaw County prosecutor until 2003. By then the statute of limitations had expired.

The U-M’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) acted more urgently. After months of counseling, a SAPAC therapist told Wiland in 1990 that the university was removing Egan from coaching boxing. No legal complaint was filed, however. Amy Burandt, a program manager at SAPAC, points out that if the priest had been accused of abusing minors, there would have been a clear duty to report it, but Wiland was in his twenties. (U-M spokesman Rick Fitzgerald says that all volunteer coaches now are required to go through a background check.)

Egan left Christ the King in the early 1990s and spent a couple of years in England. When he returned, the Ave Maria Foundation provided him a house, and he landed a regular homily segment, “Fully Alive,” on Ave Maria Radio. He also touted his connection to Monaghan: the station’s CEO, Al Kresta, says that when they met, Egan introduced himself as the “pizza priest.”

Kresta says his three sons, all now adults, boxed with the priest. After Egan was defrocked, he asked them about their experiences. They reported no problems. However, a Jackson man who asked not to be named says he was victimized.

The man says he met Egan in 2014, soon after marrying into a Catholic family and converting. He accepted Egan’s offer to teach him to box.

In Egan’s basement, he saw teenage boys punching the cleric in the stomach. Egan offered him \$20 an hour to conduct “gut punch sessions.” But after urging him to be more “dominant,” Egan started touching his own genitals. And at the next session, the man says, the priest became visibly aroused.

The man told Fr. Bill Ashbaugh at St. Thomas, and Ashbaugh soon informed him that the diocese was stopping the

boxing. But Egan didn’t stop looking for young sparring partners. And when the man continued to demand accountability, a diocesan attorney threatened to prosecute him for “stalking” its officials. The man’s attorney, Richard Mills, responded by noting his “amazement and dismay that the Diocese’s attorney would threaten an acknowledged victim of sexual abuse with prosecution.” The diocese later said Boyea hadn’t authorized the letter—and, in September 2018, formally apologized for sending it.

The man says Egan also has apologized to him. Now eighty-two and living in the senior housing complex on the St. Joseph Mercy campus, Egan did not respond to requests for an interview.

This October, the diocese conducted an outside audit to review its handling of Egan. It concluded that the diocese erred in Wiland’s case but that the Jackson man’s complaint was “handled appropriately”—an opinion he vigorously disputes. He points to evidence that Egan was active in online “gut punch” fetish forums and complains that diocesan policies still don’t sufficiently protect minors from predatory clerics.

This fall, Boyea announced the creation of a lay review board to handle complaints about sexual abuse of adults, and the diocese named seventeen priests credibly accused of abusing minors since 1937. Since none of the young men who accused him were minors, Egan was not on the list.

Storm over Saginaw Bay

“We’re already bleeding, and this will sink us,” emails Lakon Williams.

Williams is part owner of the Bay Port Fish Co. in Michigan’s Thumb. The company has fished on Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron since 1895, but pending legislation in Lansing would eliminate their most valuable catch, yellow perch. If that bill passes,



MARK BIALEK

Bay Port Fish Co. owner Tod Williams both captains a boat and sells his catch at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. Now, his daughter Lakon says, legislation pending in Lansing could force them to end retail sales—if it doesn’t sink the company outright.



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"We would stop fishing the Bay," she writes. "This would hurt us dramatically and we would have to evaluate everything we do"—including the retail sales that have made her father, Tod, a popular fixture at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market.

Tod Williams bought Bay Port Fish in 1978, when he was just twenty-eight, and remains its principal owner (a niece also has some ownership). For the past eight years, he's been keeping a grueling schedule as both fisher and fishmonger. On market days he gets up around 2 a.m. to load his truck with about 3,000 pounds of whitefish, perch, bass, and more,

The early winter shut down the fishery at the end of October and Williams made his last runs to Ann Arbor in November, delivering frozen "winter packages" to customers. But this time, he might not return come spring.

which he sells to more than 100 regular customers.

He can usually be found near the market office from April till the end of December, but this year's early winter weather shut down the fishery at the end of October. He made his last runs to Ann Arbor in November, delivering frozen "winter packages" to customers. But this time, he might not return come spring. Retail sales at Ann Arbor and at two other Michigan markets provide 20 percent of Bay Port's income, but Lakon says that if the legislation passes, they may have to pare down to a wholesale operation.

The biggest question mark is whether they can continue to harvest yellow perch. One of Bay Port's two active boats nets the small, succulent fish in shallow waters in Saginaw Bay, and in November, fillets topped Tod Williams' market price board at \$20.95 a pound.

But perch, once abundant, have grown scarcer since invasive mussels disrupted the lake's food chain. This year, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources cut sport-fishing quotas in half, and the agency supports a proposed law that would ban commercial catches in Saginaw Bay.

The lost income would be bad enough, Lakon says. But to avoid catching perch, the company would have to spend \$200,000 to buy new nets, which it can't afford. "We may just become a catch-and-sell wholesale fishery if this happens," she writes.

The company's other boat catches whitefish in deep water in Lake Huron—about 200,000 pounds per year, providing 40 percent of the company's income. Seven thousand pounds goes to the U-M, where it's served up in about 30,000

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dorm meals every year. But Lakon says other proposed legislation could easily put the deep-water fishery out of operation, too—and, if so, the business would lose everything.

She isn't surprised that the MDNR is putting the squeeze on commercial fisheries. The agency has been "getting rid of [commercial] fisheries for the last sixty years," she writes, citing a DNR website that documents how the agency decided to favor recreational fishing over commercial fisheries when it started divvying up fishing grounds in the late 1960s.

Michigan had hundreds of commercial fisheries then. Now there are only thirteen full-time commercial fisheries in the state, almost all of them family businesses.

Lakon says fishers have been strug-

Michigan had hundreds of commercial fisheries in the 1960s. Now there are only thirteen full-time commercial fisheries in the state, almost all of them family businesses.

gling with economic and environmental challenges for more than two decades—indeed, the decision to begin selling fish at farmers' markets grew out of declines in what had been the company's mainstays, carp and catfish. But the latest troubles began around 2010, when commercial fishers asked the DNR for permission to harvest walleye and lake trout—two species that have been reserved for anglers since their populations were deemed "unhealthy" in the 1960s. (The walleye and trout Bay Port sells currently are purchased from Native American fishers, whose treaty rights exempt them from state rules.)

By 2010, Lakon says, DNR stocking programs had led to an overpopulation of walleye, and that predator had begun to decimate the population of yellow perch. Clearer water caused by the invasive mussels also made them easy prey for native cormorants. But, she writes, when the sport fishing industry found out about the commercial fishers' request to target walleye and lake trout, "they flooded the DNR with emails and calls and the DNR ... sided with them."

According to Lakon, "all we want is ten or twenty percent of the quota" that the state allows anglers to harvest each year. "But they're greedy and ... not willing to compromise."

The legislation is currently in committee, but Lakon says if it passes, "we ... might bring a lawsuit for violating our property rights." She has posted a petition on change.org asking the legislature to support commercial fisheries. But, she says, the sport fishing lobby "has a lot more money" and influence,

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so she has “little hope” of turning the situation around.

Ironically, a few years ago, state officials honored Bay Port as the longest continuously operated business on the Great Lakes.

Music History

After more than five years of restoration, the Michigan Theater's pipe organ is back in full voice.

The Barton Organ, which was installed prior to the opening of the theater in 1928, can still be heard on an almost daily basis, entertaining moviegoers pre-show as well as accompanying some of early Hollywood's most famous silent films on the big screen. It's played by a revolving lineup of professional and volunteer organists, some of whom have been deeply involved in the renovations.

The revitalization began in 2014 with the organ console and blower, which were each rebuilt and improved. In 2018, the pipes and their mechanisms in the left chamber of the theater's main auditorium were rebuilt and restored. And finally this past summer the right chamber was returned to its original glory. October saw the organ's triumphant comeback, providing a suitably spooky accompaniment to the silent horror classic *Nosferatu*.

“It's pretty common that a pipe organ has to be rebuilt about every forty or fifty years, and this organ is ninety-two years old,” says David Hufford, whose company Renaissance Pipe Organ Co.



David Hufford with the Michigan's Barton Organ. He plays it as one of the theater's house organists—and rebuilt it through his Renaissance Pipe Organ Co.

did the restoration. Hufford, who's also one of the theater's house organists, says that after so many years of service it was getting to a point where it was “literally falling apart.” It was due “for a rebuild to put everything back in like-new order.”

Hufford holds two U-M degrees in organ performance, but he credits his aptitude for restoring them to a childhood spent fixing everything he could get his hands on. Combined with his love of pipe organ music, that led naturally to work as a technician and the founding of his company with business partner Elgin Clingaman in 1993.

While the work on the organ's electrical systems involved modern updates—technology and building code have come a long way in ninety years—the rest of the renovation has been as historically accurate as possible. This includes using the same glue (horsehide) and wood finish (amber shellac) as when the organ was first installed. “All the work in the chambers is being done just in the manner of the original work,” says Hufford. “We consider this part of the work an historic restoration because we're not altering anything.”

Russ Collins, executive director and CEO of the Michigan and State theaters, is keen to stress the role the organ has played in the history of the theater. When, in 1979, developers were seriously discussing turning it into a food court, the volunteers who had worked on the organ rallied the community to save the theater. “It's got historical importance,” Collins says, “in terms of the origin of the current configuration of the Michigan Theater as a nonprofit community institution.”

The immediate goal, Collins says, was to have the organ back to regular use, with a bigger celebration planned for January for the theater's ninety-second birthday. The organ “is rather unique in that it's played several times a week, fifty-two weeks a year, for the public,” Collins says. “That was the tradition before we closed it down for renovation, and it will continue to be the policy for the foreseeable future.”

question corner

Q. A few days ago my family was awakened at 4:40 a.m. by a snowplow clearing our street. While it's nice of the city to get the streets clear in time for people's morning commute, it made me curious about the safety of the snowplow drivers. So, my question is: Could you tell me how the city ensures that the snowplow drivers are able to get enough sleep?

A. “We limit our employees to 12 hours of driving in a commercial (plowing, etc.) driving capacity in a 24-hour period,” emails city communications specialist Robert Kellar. “Supervisors are also trained to look for signs of fatigue and will send drivers home or assign them to another task if there is any question about their ability to drive.”

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Inside Ann Arbor

"Even at ninety-two years old, the organ continues to generate quite a lot of excitement at the theater," Hufford says. "It's always a real thrill when we're playing before the movies and we have parents bring up their kids to see what's going on."

"It really does remain a very vital and unique part of the Michigan Theater."

Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan



calls & letters

The Gang of FOIA

Our November article "The Gang of FOIA" improperly presented a summary of remarks by attorney Tom Wieder as a quote from him. Wieder, who represented himself and two other plaintiffs in a lawsuit over their communications with city council members, did not respond to city attorney Stephen Postema's statement that there had never been a case of this kind in Michigan by saying, "just because everybody does it this way is no reason to keep doing it."

A review of the court recording confirmed that Wieder actually said: "The fact that municipalities all over the state do it this way—I mean, until somebody challenges a practice, it really doesn't matter."

Wieder added that he "would bet a small fortune" that judge Carol Kuhnke did not respond to that statement by saying "I reject that." He would win the bet. The judge said that, repeatedly, in response to the plaintiffs' claim that FOIA did not require the city to disclose their communications with councilmembers.

He and fellow plaintiffs Pat Lesko and Tom Stulberg did not "decline to comply" with the FOIA, Wieder added, because "no one asked Tom, Pat, or me to do anything." The councilmembers already had the messages—the issue was whether the city was required to release them publicly.

Wieder also disputed Ed Vielmetti's theory that the plaintiffs must have been tipped off to the FOIA by a councilmember. "The city maintains an online log of all FOIA requests filed that anyone can see," he wrote. "Pat frequently looks at the list, saw the one involving us and told me about it."

Separately, councilmember Kathy Griswold detailed her efforts to recover lost texts that limited her ability to respond to a FOIA by Luis Vazquez. Vazquez had subsequently FOIA'd to see if she'd reported the problem to the city's IT department and found no record that she had. But "he FOIA'd electronic records," Griswold said when we ran into her at the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop. She went to the department in person, she explained,

and had paper records to prove it. She added that it was her personal phone—contrary to what we wrote, "the city doesn't give us phones."

Vazquez hoped his FOIAs would reveal "machinations going on behind the scenes." After the city won the lawsuit, the documents were posted online at a2docs.org—including emails from Wieder lobbying councilmembers to fire both Postema and city administrator Howard Lazarus.

Victorian breakfasts

To the Observer:

Eve Silberman's otherwise excellent review of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" at the Purple Rose Theater (November) contains a small error. Eve wrote that the breakfast served by Doctor Watson in the play consists of "kidney beans on toast." Actually, the dish mentioned is *kidneys on toast*. This Victorian-era breakfast staple, which featured halved lamb's kidneys cooked in a spicy sauce, is also referred to as "deviled kidneys."

Sincerely,
Rob Stone

Why Humanities?

To the Editor:

I greatly enjoyed Shelley Daily's article about the Humanities program at Pioneer High School. It brought back wonderful memories of early mornings—first and second period—of my senior year over 25 years ago.

Among the important reasons for students to take, and for the District to continue to support, the Humanities program, I would add this one. On the first day of class in the fall of 1993, Sue Frazier, the tiny spitfire senior English teacher on the teaching team, got up and said to us, "We are going to make you work hard. Really hard. And you know what? At the end of this, you are going to be *so smart*. You're going to be able to read the cartoons in *The New Yorker* and laugh at them."

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Sincerely,
Josh Feigelson



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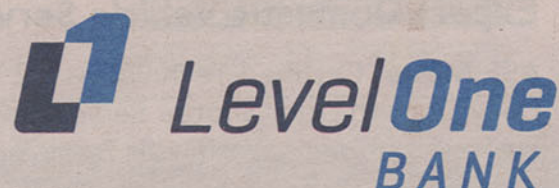
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by Bob & Jorja Feldman



Solar Panels

Plugging into the sun

The residence in our photos, 538 S. Fifth St., is on a city block that exudes quintessential Ann Arbor. But one feature is definitely not quintessential, though it may be in the future: solar panels to generate electricity.

John Rietz and Rachel Thompson went solar in 2016. They were motivated by their concern about climate change, and hoped that the visible display of their commitment might inspire others to do the same. "We are bathed in energy," Rietz says. "The trick is to capture it."

Homeland Solar sold and installed the couple's roof top system. Manager Dave Friedrichs explains that when sunlight strikes the panels, electrons separate out and move through a circuit, creating electricity in the form of direct current. A device called an inverter converts this to standard household alternating current for the household's use.

On sunny days, Rietz and Thompson's system can produce far more electricity than they use. That excess is fed into DTE's electrical grid through a specialized electric meter that measures electricity going out as well as coming in. Over the course of a year, Rietz says, those credits just about equal DTE's bills for the energy they use at night and on darker days.

(Newer installations get smaller credits, so your results may vary.)

Residential installations are at small end of the solar-panel spectrum. At the other are DTE's "solar parks." DTE Energy's Cindy Hecht and Brian Calka explain there are four of these in the immediate Ann Arbor area: two on U-M properties off Plymouth and Fuller roads; one at Domino's Farms, visible from US-23 just north of M-14 east junction; and the one featured in our photo, off Scio Church Rd. east of Wagner.

The largest and newest is the one at Domino's Farms: 4,032 panels generating enough energy to power 174 homes. The smallest is the one off Scio Church: 270 panels generating enough energy to power ten homes. By comparison, DTE's two solar installations in Lapeer combined consist of 200,000 panels and produce enough energy to power 11,000 homes.

Those panels are a little larger in size than typical residential units. After being converted to alternating current, the power they generate is stepped up to high voltage for transmission, then stepped down at its destination for use as household current.

Solar is currently 7 percent of DTE's renewable energy portfolio, contributing to its announced goal to reduce carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2030, 80 percent by 2040, and net zero by 2050.

"We are bathed in energy," says Old West Side homeowner John Rietz. "The trick is to capture it."



PHOTOS: BOB & JORJA FELDMAN

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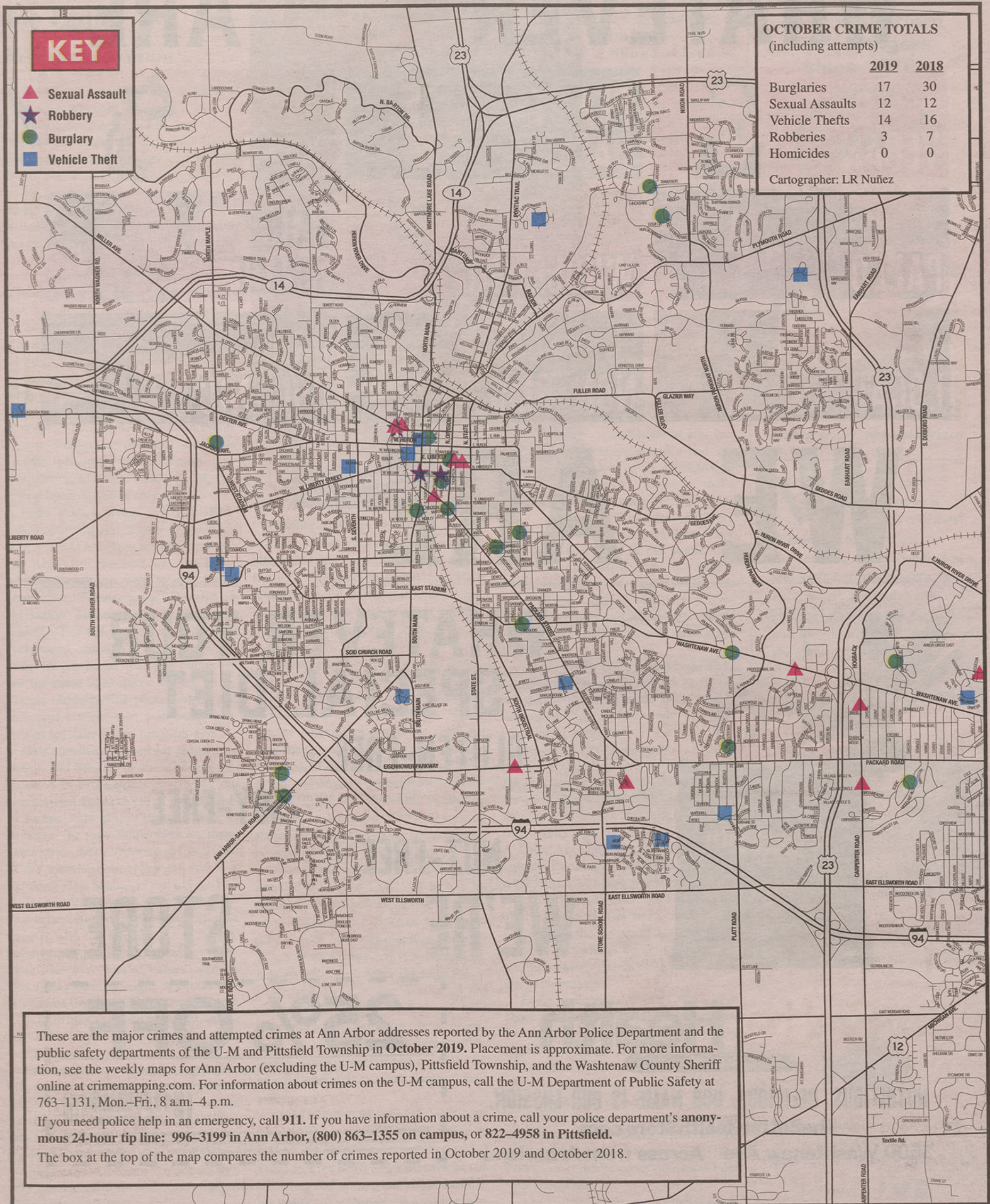
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Ann Arborites

Joe Eadie

Kerrytown's Santa

No one notices Joe Eadie as he sips peppermint tea at a coffee shop—until the bespectacled sixty-eight-year-old with white hair and beard, bushy eyebrows, and a red baseball cap lets out a loud “Ho, ho, ho!” and a hearty laugh.

A guy working at his laptop turns and stares: Santa is in the building.

Eadie says the look is “God-given.” But he’s been honing the laugh and other skills for almost a decade as the resident Santa at Kerrytown Market & Shops, making appearances at its tree lighting, Kindle-Fest, and on the weekends leading up to Christmas. While holding down a day job in sales at the manufacturing technology company Zoller, Eadie appeared at twenty events last year—and gave out 1,800 candy canes. He says he relishes being the “spirit-filled guy who brings joy to a lot of people,” but, as the Kerrytown events have swelled in size over the years, “it’s become logistically more difficult.” Last year, during Midnight Madness, he saw several hundred kids in four hours.

Eadie studied acting with local Redbud Productions and starred as Santa for three years in a Canton holiday show before Kerrytown recruited him. But Eadie says he doesn’t just want to *play* Santa, he strives to “become Santa.” Drawing on the Sanford Meisner acting technique he learned at Redbud, he focuses on character background, emotional work, and scene study. He purchased two Santa outfits online for about \$400 apiece, adding props, like an old-fashioned pocket watch and bells, and a white shirt with candy-cane buttons his sister-in-law made for him.

He’s attended St. Nicholas Institute in Detroit and belongs to the Michigan Association of Professional Santas and the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas. “I’m always learning more to be better,” he says. While there are many Santa styles, from Victorian to Coca-Cola to the traditional St. Nicholas, his is a “working-class Santa—as real as I can be.”

He says the window of time when children believe has become shorter. “The sad thing is with the Internet and television, unfortunately, there isn’t any mystery anymore.” He sees “lots of babies” through kids up to around age eight. “I tell the older children they have a very important job ... to keep the Christmas spirit alive and to be Santa’s helper. That’s maybe my farewell to them.”

Eadie says kids still bring their Christmas lists, and ask for Legos, Polly Pockets, and My Little Ponies—and in Ann Arbor, they often ask for books. “When they ask for iPads or say they want an iPhone 6 or 8 or 12, well, I say to the younger ones that Santa doesn’t do well with electronics because they get banged around in the sleigh.”



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

Another challenge is requests for live animals: “I’ll say ‘it’s very, very cold in the sleigh so I can’t promise,’ unless maybe if I get a wink from mom and dad.” He’ll always say, “I’ll do my best” and promises each child that “on Christmas morning there’s gonna be surprises for you!”

Eadie’s parents divorced when he was young, and he and his four younger siblings were separated, living in foster care and with relatives. “It was not the happiest of times,” he says, but godparents—an aunt and uncle who had three kids of their own—provided a “wonderful” upbringing. “I went from being the oldest to being the baby of the family,” he says. He’s still in touch with his surviving siblings but says he’s closer to the cousins he grew up with.

Eadie graduated from Saline High and attended WCC and EMU—“I have a lot of life skills but no degree,” he says. He came to Zoller after “a lot of years in retail and sales.” He’s the oldest employee at the company’s new North American headquarters in the Ann Arbor Research Park.

He and his wife, Jan, live in an old farmhouse in Lodi Township and have two grown children. Jan “tells people she’s not Mrs. Claus when they ask,” he laughs, but is supportive of his side job, and grateful that playing Santa “keeps me happy.”

“Life is life,” he says. “People have their baggage ... and I’m still trying to figure out how to lay my baggage aside.” When he’s not being Santa, he says, he can be “feisty and spirited and sometimes disagreeable.” But though “I’m getting old,

and it can be tiring,” he says, “Santa can’t have a bad day.”

“Being Santa is a simple life. Santa doesn’t pay any bills. Santa doesn’t fight with Mrs. Claus. Santa doesn’t worry about his weight or how he looks. It’s kinda fun.”

A forty-year member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Eadie sees commonality in how Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa all celebrate light during “the darkest time of the year.” He often carries gold chocolate coins in his pocket to hand out with his candy canes, and he says Jewish families bring their kids to meet him too.

Although he has liability insurance and undergoes a background check “because that’s the world we live in today,” he says he’s “very sheltered because of the way Ann Arbor is. I don’t hear a lot of sad stories like some Santas do.” He does recall a disheveled-looking boy who tugged on his suit when he was walking outside at Kerrytown one evening and asked for a sewing machine so he could make his mom some new clothes.

“Those are the times I wish I could miraculously wave this wand,” he says, his voice cracking. He’s made visits to sick and dying children. “I sat with my wife and said, ‘I don’t know if I can do this,’ but I was honored that somebody thought enough of what I did that they asked me.” He says he held the child, talked, and the family took pictures. “My picture is in thousands of homes and scrapbooks, and that’s pretty neat,” he says.

Once, when he was confronted by a boy who claimed Eadie was “just a fat man in a suit,” the adults around him rallied to his defense. “What do you mean I’m not real? Touch my hand. I’m real!” he told the boy. He tells the naysayers that “Santa has helpers everywhere, because Santa can’t be everywhere. You can’t be sure which one is the real one.”

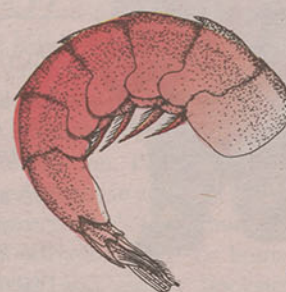
Eadie explains he doesn’t feel guilty about the friendly fibs. “I don’t feel like I’m lying any more than people that told legends and stories around campfires and told of heroes.” Too many people, he says, “have lost their sense of humor. I hope I bring a little back to them.”

“I have children that tell their parents when they see other Santas, ‘That can’t be the real Santa because the real Santa is at Kerrytown,’” Eadie says. “So I know I did something right.”

—Shelley Daily

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Coming of Age at State and Packard

In 1965, it had everything a young man needed.

You can look it up. Twenty dollars in 1965 equates to about \$150 today. And in 1965 you could walk into the Campus Corner pharmacy at State and Packard and cash a check for \$20, night or day, with just your driver's license. I did it countless times. This was before ATM's and a credit card in every wallet.

A corkboard behind the counter displayed dozens of bounced checks. They would make sure you didn't already have a check up there before they would cash your new one. That happened to me once. But after I paid off the bad check I was good to go again. I could cash a check the next day.

I wish I'd known who owned Campus Corner then, because it provided an amazing service. With \$20 you could take your date out to dinner and a movie and maybe pick up a bottle of Boone's Farm for later. Condoms were kept behind the pharmacy counter. You had to tell the pharmacist what kind you wanted, never a comfortable task. But it was all there at Campus Corner, everything a young man needed.

Except for reading matter. Luckily, across the street at the Blue Front, Ray Collins would sell you the *New York Times*, *Playboy*, or a copy of *Wuthering Heights*. Collins never seemed to move from behind the cluttered counter. He was always in a shadow, like Rod Steiger in *The Pawnbroker*.

I developed a love for reading in my first couple of years in Ann Arbor, and the Blue Front had a lot to do with that. It seemed like Collins had a paperback of every novel in the English language. They weren't well organized—many weren't even unpacked—but he knew where they were. You could wander in at ten on a Sunday night and ask for *Look Homeward*



I wish I'd known who owned Campus Corner, because it provided an amazing service. You could cash a check for \$20 to take your date out to dinner and a movie and maybe pick up a bottle of Boone's Farm for later.

Angel, and he would point and mumble, "Yeah, back in the corner over there, 'bout halfway down in that big stack."

After getting my cash, booze, and books, I'd stop at Ralph's Market, next door to the Blue Front, to pick up some Dinty Moore beef stew or a few cans of Campbell's soup. Ralph was a city councilman, always ready with an opinion on local matters. In those days I wasn't much interested, but I thought of Ralph a decade later, when I went door-to-door to register voters to help elect our first black mayor, Al Wheeler.

Ralph probably considered me just another ignorant student, and I was—but I wasn't the typical college freshman. I was twenty-two and just out of the Air Force. I had written letters to two colleges in each state (100 total) seeking a combination of work and school—I was an experienced computer programmer. A guy at U-M's Data Processing Center was the only one in the country to ask me to come for an interview. He said if I would work full-time for a year he would then let me go half-time while attending classes.

I took the job, and a year later, I applied to U-M. They laughed at me. I had had no idea that Michigan was a prestigious place.

So I went up to the admissions office and begged. A nice guy there said if I took two classes in the summer half-term and got a 'B' average, they would let me in. I took the classes, got my 'B' average, and entered LSA in 1966 on the G.I. Bill.

Soon after I got to town, my brother, a Coast Guard officer, had stopped in Ann Arbor to leave his '55 T-bird with me while he went to Vietnam. I had been lucky enough to find an efficiency apartment on White St. for \$80 a month, and, with that T-bird, I was off and running in my new life.

While my brother was here, we walked over to the football stadium and bought tickets at face value from some guy on the street for the Ohio State game. The stadium was only about three-quarters full. This was a few years before they hired Bo.

The next day my brother flew out of Willow Run. He came home safely two years later, after patrolling Vietnamese rivers.

Ann Arbor was pretty much a backwater in those days. It's hard to imagine, but there were few fine restaurants downtown. To celebrate a wedding or a graduation, you would go to Weber's or the Lord Fox in Dixboro. If you had some pull, you might use the Michigan League or the Michigan Union. Near campus were the Brown Jug, Thano's Lamplighter (pizza), and the original Cottage Inn. Pizza Bob's had great sub sandwiches in addition to pizza. And, of course, Ralph's had a bottomless supply of bachelor food for home dining. But State was mostly bookstores, and Main mostly clothing stores, with one or two bars.

So, there I was—living on White St. just down from Campus Corner, a student/employee of one of the great institutions of the world. I was a smoker, because in the military everybody smoked (cigarettes cost twenty cents a pack in the post exchange store). You could smoke anywhere in those days, even in class. There were ashtrays in every classroom in Angell Hall.

Being a little older than most students, I was sometimes asked by guys standing outside Campus Corner if I would buy a bottle for them. I always obliged. That store, and the Blue Front, Ralph's, and Pizza Bob's were pretty much my social center for the next few years.

I eventually quit smoking. I moved away from State and Packard, the Blue Front and Campus Corner became altogether different enterprises, and Ralph's Market disappeared. But I still live on Ann Arbor's west side, and every time I go through that intersection something deep in my soul tightens up a bit. That little neighborhood was where I grew up, starting at the age of twenty-two.

And, thanks to the Blue Front and Ray Collins, I never lost my love of books. I married a librarian. But browsing at the library will never match my happy hours in the dark back corners of the Blue Front late on Sunday nights, looking for the one John Steinbeck I hadn't yet read.

—Neil Haldeman



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BY CYNTHIA FURLONG REYNOLDS

Xander Salsitz was born at the University of Michigan Medical Center on April 28, 2003. He flourished for the first seven years of his life. But in late 2011, when he was a second grader at the Steiner School, "something weird happened," says his mother, Emilie. "He had a strange reaction to a vaccine."

"Within a year or two, we saw varying symptoms of damage: bleeding gums, and a series of illnesses that he struggled to overcome."

Emilie and her husband, Aaron, run a mom-and-pop computer services company (the Observer is a client). Technically minded and widely curious, they had taken an unusual step when Xander was born: they had about 60 milliliters of blood from his umbilical cord collected and cryogenically frozen at the New England Cord Blood Bank (NECBB), thinking it might have some future scientific use.

"We had no idea how critical that decision would be, how it would play such an important role in our lives," Emilie says.

Doctors sent Xander to U-M labs for further tests. When the results showed a "ridiculously low" blood count, Emilie recalls, he was rushed to the emergency room. Medical staff immediately gave him a transfusion of platelets, the cell fragments that blood needs to clot. "If he had sneezed, he could have lost his life" from uncontrollable bleeding, Emilie says. "The situation was that serious."

In January 2012, Xander was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). It was the start of an epic medical journey that involved countless near-death experiences. His blood-producing bone marrow was killed and replaced three times.

That tale is still difficult for his parents to relate. But today, Xander is a healthy sophomore at Pioneer and an aspiring musician.



COURTESY SALSITZ FAMILY

XANDER'S MIRACLE

The Pioneer sophomore beat terminal illness—and became a medical chimera.

He's also a medical chimera—a person whose body has two different sets of DNA. Most of his genes come from his parents, of course. But some are now a gift from a stranger, a young university student in Germany who answered a desperate call for help.

MDS is a group of disorders in which the bone marrow has trouble producing mature blood cells. Usually symptomless in the early stages, it eventually causes fatigue and shortness of breath. Sufferers will become unusually pale, bruise and bleed easily, and may see pinpoint-sized red spots under the skin. They contract infections frequently because their marrow isn't producing enough white blood cells.

Most victims are over sixty and many have been exposed to industrial chemicals, tobacco smoke, or pesticides. The fact that none of those circumstances applied to Xander didn't make his illness any less perilous. Specialists told Emilie and Aaron

that their son had two options: die or undergo a bone marrow transplant.

"Everything hinges on finding the right bone marrow donor," Aaron says. "We were so grateful when a match was found for Xander."

What matched initially, though, wasn't bone marrow: it was umbilical cord blood. Other parents had donated it after their own child's birth, hoping it might someday help someone like Xander.

Umbilical blood is rich in stem cells that can develop to play many different roles in the body. The idea was that the stem cells would replace Xander's failing bone marrow, which would then start to produce new, healthy blood.

The procedure started with chemotherapy to obliterate his existing bone marrow stem cells. Without white blood cells, he would be vulnerable to life-threatening infections. "People all over the world prayed for Xander," Emilie says.

Initially all went well—until he contracted a life-threatening shingles infection. Doctors had accidentally neglected to

Xander Salsitz,
aspiring musician,
summer 2019.

administer an inexpensive antiviral medication that would have protected him.

Xander was rushed into isolation as his body struggled to combat the raging virus. The conflict reaction "blew out" the blood vessels in one eye, Emilie says. The transplant failed, and he was left dependent on blood transfusions to survive.

At one point, Aaron and Emilie were told their son had a 6 percent chance of living five years. The Salsitz family blog posts chronicle the long, painful, terrifying ordeals of procedures and near-death crises.

On Dec. 1, 2013, Emilie wrote,

"We have been working hard to keep him entertained while sitting day in and day out in his room. The monotony would get to anyone. We try to keep level heads and keep things moving forward, but being in the hospital for this long is like being in a big pressure cooker—at some point, it has to vent ... As we move along at what seems like a snail's pace, we are reminded of the last onset of [graft-versus-host disease] ... This creates a huge drain on the family unit and the family budget. Thankfully, we have clients that are patient and understand our situation ... As we start on the 8th week of admission, our funds are getting tight once again."

They couldn't know it at the time, but their son's ordeal was only beginning. In all, he would spend nine months in the hospital—and require two more transplants.

Between medical expenses and time off work to be with Xander in the hospital, the family finances suffered. The couple drained their retirement accounts, remortgaged their home, and eventually launched an online fundraising campaign to keep them afloat financially; it raised \$34,817.

Xander had his second transplant four weeks after the first—this time, using his own stored umbilical cord blood which was delivered from NECBB's facility in Boston. Xander became the U-M's first

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XANDER'S MIRACLE

patient to receive a cord blood transplant from himself.

His own cells couldn't cure Xander's MDS, but they would give his body a chance to recover while doctors and the family decided on the next step. After receiving them, Xander started to regain strength. His bloodshot eye began to repair itself almost immediately.

He also began what would eventually be hundreds of sessions in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber. Aaron explains that the pressure perfused oxygen into his blood plasma, penetrating tissues beyond the reach of red blood cells to promote healing and increase stem-cell production.

His doctors recommended that Xander undergo yet another transplant. But this

"He made a deal with his doctors: if he could go to school and be with his friends, he'd agree to another transplant."

would be his last chance: three transplants are the maximum.

Aaron and Emilie allowed their son to make his own life-and-death decision. "At first he said no, having barely survived the first one," Aaron recalls. "We supported his decision—until he steadily grew worse."

"That was when he made a deal with the doctors: if he could go to school and be with his friends, he'd agree to another transplant. All he wanted was to be just like the other nine year olds in his class."

Xander got his day in school. And then a twenty-three-year-old German university student had marrow extracted from his hip bone, to save the life of a little boy he'd never met.

Michael Fengler got the first urgent request in February 2011: DKMS, an international nonprofit bone marrow donor center based in Ann Arbor's sister city of Tübingen, wanted him to provide new blood samples and take a physical exam.

He was told that his genetic markers matched those of a young boy in need of a bone marrow transplant. He immediately complied and waited to hear whether surgery or blood draws would be necessary.

Fengler is one of more than six million Germans who have registered as potential donors of hematopoietic (blood-forming) cells. It's the highest rate in the world, more than double that of the U.S.

"Germans are very giving people," says Lisa Hoekstra, who has matched patients and donors for U-M blood and marrow



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COURTESY SALSITZ FAMILY

Thumb-wrestling with U-M hematology prof Greg Yanik.

transplants since 2013. "Sixty percent of the donors on the National Marrow Donor Program are Germans." Both Aaron and Emilie have family roots in Western Europe, which also made it more likely that a match would be found there.

Fengler was put on alert several times over the thirteen months during which Xander underwent his first two transplants. On March 25, 2013, he was once again asked to give a blood sample and take a physical.

He passed, and on April 28, he underwent a two-hour surgical procedure under anesthesia at a hospital in Cologne. A little more than a cup of marrow cells was collected from the back of his hip bone using a syringe and immediately shipped to Ann Arbor.

Fengler awoke with two sandbags below his hips, suffering from back and hip pain. He stayed at the clinic overnight and was released. His physician requested five days of sick leave. "Besides that pain for two or three days, I had no long-term negative physical effects," he writes.

The DKMS paid for all his expenses and it would also have reimbursed him for sick leave if Fengler had needed it. Without sharing the recipient's name, they also kept him informed of Xander's condition and progress.

Then, in 2017, they passed on a request: Xander's family would like to contact him.

In 2015, Xander didn't visit the emergency room once. He entered sixth grade at Tappan, played clarinet in his first band performance, and sang in the choir.

On April 28, 2017, Xander's family celebrated his fourteenth birthday soon after doctors reported that his metabolic and blood numbers showed no signs of disease. They also reminded the family that his blood was now entirely a product of Fengler's genes—even his blood type was different.

Fengler accepted their request for contact. Two months later, the Salsitz family flew to Germany to thank Fengler and his mother, Pia, in person.

"Words cannot express our gratitude to Michael," Emilie says.

In June, Fengler and his mother welcomed the Salsitz family to Bonn and they spent a day together. "This shared day was very exciting and I gratefully received some very personal gifts from Xander, as well as some very typical souvenirs from Michigan, i.e., a t-shirt from the University of Michigan," Fengler writes.

"I somehow do feel a special connection to Xander, given that he has got my immune system. I would and can go through the process again, if my bone marrow is needed again—for Xander or someone else."

Xander also feels a close connection. "It's odd, but in some ways I'm beginning to look a little like Michael," he observes, "hair color among them. I feel as if he's like an uncle or a blood brother. I'm learning German so I can study in Germany."

Bright, articulate, and highly motivated, Xander is very grateful to be alive. "Every day I realize how glad I am to be here," he says. "I know an enormous number of people prayed for me and two healers worked with me. I had some terrific doctors and nurses."

"When I think back over those years, first, it's with wonder at how much happened to me. Second, I try to enjoy what's in front of me. And third, I realize how important it is for patients to become their own advocate."

His sister Molly was six when the ordeal began. "I didn't understand what was going on, just that Xander was really, really sick, and sometimes I felt angry about that." She grins at her brother and adds, "He gotten a lot smarter, because of all the knowledge he absorbed in the hospital. He thinks like an adult."

"Xander is everything any parent dreams of: a normal, average boy with exciting hopes and ambitions," Emilie says. "We have gone from having absolutely no hope about his future to marveling at the limitless possibilities he has in store for him. All our wishes have come true." ■

To learn more about the National Marrow Donor Program, visit BeTheMatch.org.



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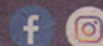
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THE MISSION OF CATALINA KAIYOORAWONGS

With the help of scholarships and her parents, Elizabeth Henley graduated from an out-of-state university with a degree in engineering, a summer of study abroad, and \$35,000 in student debt. She worked for a large construction firm for two years, living frugally and saving carefully. Then she entered a two-year Ivy League graduate program with a \$169,000 price tag. She graduated with a master's degree, two job offers, and a total of \$110,000 in student loans.

Her new employer pays well—but Henley continues to live frugally as she struggles to meet \$1,700 monthly student loan payments. She estimates she will pay close to \$70,000 in interest on her educational debt.

She's a perfect candidate for the debt-management and retirement planning services offered by Catalina Kaiyoorawongs' Ann Arbor-based start-up, LoanSense.

Student loans.

The phrase strikes terror in the hearts of parents, students, and college graduates. In the first quarter of 2019, student loan debt in the U.S. rose to \$1.52 trillion—more than Americans owed on their car loans (\$1.28 trillion) or credit cards (\$850 billion).

Kaiyoorawongs has a plan—and a business model—to help address that stag-

gering amount of debt—and the financial and emotional stress that goes with it.

"Very few students understand the loan process or even who their lenders are," says the 2019 U-M Ross School of Business MBA. "Often they think they'll be able to rely on a good job in the future to take care of their debt—only to discover their debt is a lot greater than they imagined, and it comes with hefty interest charges. When they do get jobs, they can't even consider investing in retirement because they're in such debt now."



Kaiyoorawongs (r.) with her grandmother and sister in Thailand.

Kaiyoorawongs says that's why she recently turned down a "really, really nice corporate job" offer. Instead, she's devoting all her time and energy to launching LoanSense—"a business whose mission resonates with me."

Her company's online platform helps employees manage their loans and tap debt-relief programs. It also helps employers get them started toward retirement by contributing to their 401(k) and 403(b) accounts. Her pitch: offering student loan assistance as an employee benefit will help companies recruit, engage, and retain staff.

She's experienced her share of financial stress. "I was raised by a single mother who only had a high school education and had to work several jobs to support three children," she says. "When you grow up

The Ross grad passed up a corporate job to develop an employee perk that really matters: **help with student debts.**

BY CYNTHIA FURLONG REYNOLDS

with economic hardships, you learn how to scrounge and optimize resources at a very early age."

The middle daughter of a Chinese Thai father and an American mother, by the age of nine Kaiyoorawongs was caring for her younger sister and helping her father in his Bangkok restaurant and billiards hall while her mother taught English classes until late at night. "My parents were largely absent," she says.

When the Asian economic crisis hit, her father's business collapsed. In 1996, her mother moved with Catalina and her sisters to Sarasota, where they shared a three-bedroom townhouse with her grandparents and two cousins.

"I focused on two purposes," Kaiyoorawongs says: "Do well in school. Learn to manage money."

In high school, she babysat, bagged groceries, managed a pizza franchise, and worked in a kosher kitchen at a Jewish senior residence. After graduation, she was offered full scholarships to four universities. She chose Barnard because she saw more chances to develop leadership skills in an all-women environment.

"I've always worked, I've always made money, and I've always found ways to leverage resources," she says. "In between classes, I babysat for a money manager's family; he taught me how to invest. And I babysat for a lawyer's children; he helped me land an internship with the Brooklyn district attorney's office."

Kaiyoorawongs graduated in 2008 and got a job at the Manhattan D.A.'s office. But she soon realized she didn't want to become a lawyer. Instead, she joined the Peace Corps, which sent her to a remote western highland region in Guatemala.

"The natives expected a woman to come with a man—and they expected the



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

man to direct projects," she says.

"I quickly learned that the ways women do things in the U.S. don't work in Guatemala."

She learned the regional Mayan dialect and created a health education program for the residents of twenty-one villages. "The great majority not only didn't speak English, they didn't speak Spanish, and they couldn't read or write. Nor did they want to take advice or orders from a woman."

"I had to teach myself new gender roles and new ways of communicating—I told stories and acted them out. I knew I was making headway when I learned their name for me meant 'Woman That Wears Pants.'"

Her Peace Corps experience convinced her "I could do anything it takes to achieve the best outcome." Soon after she returned to Sarasota, she met with the city's then-mayor, Kelly Kirschner. Kirschner is founder of UnidosNow, a nonprofit that provides opportunities, education, and a voice for the region's growing Hispanic community.

Kaiyoorawongs taught financial literacy as a volunteer with UnidosNow then became its first paid staff member, and ultimately, its director. She raised fund-

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THE MISSION OF CATALINA KAIYOORAWONGS

ing for a summer academy, where first-generation American high schoolers were tutored and encouraged to consider continuing education.

"I grew up between two very different cultures, so I relate to anyone who doesn't fit in," she says. "And I'm passionate about education. I feel I have to give back to people who come from a background like mine."

At the advice of her mentor, a Guatemalan with a Harvard MBA, she chose U-M for her graduate work for two reasons: the renowned Ross School and the School of Education, where she also studied. She earned her MBA this year and married fellow entrepreneur Roy Han.

Though Han's company is based in New York City, "I can't possibly think of leaving Ann Arbor," Kaiyoorawongs says. "I've discovered so many opportunities here and a generous community of people I can reach out to for help and advice."

She developed the concept for LoanSense—originally called Dough—during her MBA program. Now, she says, "I can continue the work I was doing before Ross—but on a far different level."

According to a 2019 survey by the Society for Human Resource Management, the number of employers offering some sort of benefit addressing student debt doubled this year, to 8 percent. Recently, Abbott Laboratories, the Travelers Companies, and Raytheon have either launched or announced plans to match student loan repayments with contributions to their 401(k) plans.

Though some companies offer their employees help to consolidate debt, Kaiyoorawongs strongly believes that's not the best way to go. "We are *not* a refinance company," she emphasizes. "I don't believe in debt consolidation. Federal programs may actually save your workforce more money than refinancing."

"My competitors are pushing refinancing, but refinancing isn't right for 50 percent of Americans," she says. For instance, those who work in the huge nonprofit world—which includes hospitals and universities—can get debt forgiveness in ten years."

Elizabeth Henley's brother can testify to that: when he graduated from law school, he chose a job with the government rather than in the private sector because the government agency promised to assume his student debt after an introductory period.

LoanSense's algorithm uses the answers to six simple questions to determine whether the company's services can save clients and their employees money and speed debt reduction. The company first enrolls and educates corporate employers, then educates employees about appropriate programs and offers debt-repayment advice.

"High-level corporate leaders don't understand the pressures and dilemmas



Volunteering with the Peace Corps in the highlands of Guatemala

facing young employees," Kaiyoorawongs says. "But the IRS does. It allows for corporate investments in employees' 401(k)s without any employee contributions—if the employees are conscientiously repaying their student loans. The idea is to offer a means for people to save for retirement even when they're under pressure to pay off student loans."

As she fine-tuned her business plan at U-M, she caught the attention of entrepreneurs and potential investors. Last year LoanSense won the grand prize in the Detroit Fintech Challenge, which included an equity investment of up to \$50,000. It also won the grand prize and audience choice award for Innovation in Action, and grand prize in the U-M's Dow Sustainability Award. This past August, it won the Audience Choice Award at Ann Arbor's New Tech and TechArb Demo Day.

Kaiyoorawongs is now working to raise \$500,000 in seed money to get her company on its feet. "We're on the verge of finalizing our software and becoming revenue-generating," she says. "It's time I turn my attention to marketing and publicity and sales."

The Society for Human Resource Management estimates that by 2021, one-third of U.S. employers may offer some form of student debt assistance. This past January, financial services giant Fidelity announced a 401(k) program similar to LoanSense's—though Kaiyoorawongs says hers is more customized.

As more companies recognize the need to help their college-educated employees cope with crushing debt loads, Kaiyoorawongs hopes to carve out a niche. She believes wholeheartedly that the course she's charted is the best way for employers and employees alike, because stress from debt hurts employees' well-being and ability to focus at work.

Elizabeth Henley is one of the millions of indebted college grads who could benefit. "I love my job," Henley says, "but if another employer in my field offered me a comparable job as well as help with my debt, I would definitely consider accepting."

A startup can't match the pay of the corporate job Kaiyoorawongs passed up. But when LoanSense takes off, it will be far more important. And she's not afraid to tackle a big problem with a small company.

"I'm not afraid of going outside my comfort zone," she says, "because I've never had one." ■

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Restaurant Reviews

Shake Shack

Have it their way

New to the east side of town, the fourth Shake Shack burger joint in Michigan (and one of hundreds worldwide) is drawing diners of all ages in such numbers that they are challenging the limits of the Arbor Hills Crossing parking lot. Parking's not required though, because the streamlined menu is well suited for customers to order ahead for pickup. On a recent weekend afternoon, there were eighteen staff members working and about forty diners—but brown paper bags branded with the snazzy green burger logo were piling up steadily in the big pickup rack.

Choices are limited to straightforward options, like one patty or two on a burger, lettuce and tomato, or cheese sauce on your fries or hot dog. Your burger is cooked medium unless you specify well done (rare is not an option), and only a couple local beers are offered alongside their proprietary ShackMeister Ale. You get a sense that too much variety would confound that fast-moving kitchen crowd.

This kind of "have it our way" menu can be frustrating unless it's very well crafted with good ingredients. And therein may be the key to Shake Shack's success: most everything here is high quality and darn tasty. In fact, the SmokeShack and Chick'n Shack could be the best fast-food sandwiches you'll taste this year.

Spicy little diced cherry peppers get your taste buds tingling in the SmokeShack, while its mayo-like sauce and fresh bun cushion a seared beef patty and flavorful Niman Ranch applewood-smoked bacon cooked just crisp. This seven buck sandwich could satisfy even without the burger.

The Chick'n Shack, meanwhile, is built around a hefty inch-thick chicken breast, which comes out of the fryer crispy on the outside and still juicy inside. Crunchy pickle slices, buttermilk herb sauce, and



KATHERINE DOWNE

fresh lettuce and tomato complete the flavor picture.

Younger and lighter eaters should also be pleased with the Chick'n Bites: cut segments of breast meat with your choice of good barbecue or honey mustard sauce for dipping. Paying an extra buck for cheddar cheese sauce gets you a denser, though not necessarily better meal. "It's not the same as that queso sauce you see everywhere," the cashier said, but, aside from a paler color, it didn't seem that different; mostly it seemed like a bland and unnecessarily heavy blanket on the already fine chicken or fries.

Cheesiness also overwhelms the 'Shroom Burger, the signature vegetarian entrée. Portabella fans may feel shortchanged by this preparation—a thin mushroom cap is slit and filled with bland Muenster and cheddar then fried with a thin crispy coating. It's a mushroom burger more suited to people who aren't fans of mushrooms than to those of us who are.

(The cheese is mandatory—there are not vegan options.)

There are three varieties of floats and seven different shakes (more if you upgrade to malted). I loved the coffee shake—it went really well with the burger. And if you want a full-on dessert, the Shack offers several kinds of "concretes" (think DQ Blizzard), including the seasonal "Pie Oh My" made with chunks of Zingerman's pumpkin pie and the very chocolate Shack Attack with chunks of Zing Black Magic Brownies (super yummy). Well-displayed calorie counts can help

keep the dive into self-indulgence from going too deep.

When you're in that beautiful naturally lit space on a Sunday afternoon, watching the big-screen Lions start their usual fourth-quarter "rally" (sigh) while teenage dates in Dexter Dreadnaught jackets are giggling nearby, it's nice to relax, take the cook's day off—and dig into a great sandwich and over-the-top concrete chaser. Shake Shack is the only place in town for that.

—M.B. Lewis

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New to the west side, CoreLife Eatery's building rises out of the Maple Village parking lot with trendy lighting behind a glassed-in front. A couple people told me they mistook it for a gym until they saw the word "Eatery," which is less prominent in a toned-down font.

Fitness of a sort is part of the plan: their website's home page proclaims a "focus on promoting the power of clean and healthy food to enhance performance." Founded a few years ago in upstate New



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Restaurant Reviews

York, CoreLife has holistic aspirations for our corporate fast-casual age.

An inviting wall of vibrant raw chopped vegetables is the backdrop to a long table of sous-chef-style recessed containers, plus big kettles, grills, and bright-colored drinks in self-serve dispensers. But any illusion that you are headed to a self-serve salad/hot bar is dispensed as you make your way through the photo- and menu-walled gauntlet. The array of favorite bowls or suggested combos awaiting, complete with allergen and special diet codes, is truly daunting.

Cheery attendants are on station to help with your questions. Kudos to these patient souls for helping newbies navigate the pricing structure and permissible ingredient swap-outs of the hundreds, maybe thousands, of entrées that could be made.

Arriving for our first visit on a chilly day, our party of three selected an eclectic trio of bowls. Talking to an ordering attendant (concierge?) revealed a first surprise: the Ann Arbor franchise makes its own soup broth—"with leftover veggies every day," she said with a wave behind her to the veggies and kettle. "We make everything here."

I thought I could detect a made-here taste in my chicken tortilla chipotle chicken broth bowl, but it was overpowered by the seasoned chicken chunks, spinach, rice, black beans, roasted peppers, shredded cheese, and tortilla strips. Cilantro is suggested as an optional add-on. It was a fine soup, which would probably get more exciting with a few tweaks. The tortilla strips turned mushy, for instance, so I'd skip them or just get them on the side.

A huge helping of seasoned, roasted pork sirloin (maybe a half-pound and for sure much more than in the menu photo) topped our family friend's Korean barbecue pork warm rice bowl. She got it with the prescribed purple rice blend, kimchi, sesame sriracha sprouts, and spicy (mainly garlicky) broccoli. At the spice and nut sprinkle-in station at the end of the counter, though, she made a discovery that wowed us all: crisp dried lemongrass snips. They look like pale scallions, but the lovely citrus-herb flavor would enhance almost any bowl you and/or CoreLife could conjure up.

My adult son, Chris, was the least impressed with his entrée, the tuna poke fire-warm rice bowl. Amid gulps of water, he explained: "If I think it's spicy, then it probably is really spicy. The mixture of warm ingredients and cold ingredients average it out in a way I don't love. I know you can make your own bowl, and I probably should have."

At this point, Chris made a *grrrr* funny face and took another gulp of water. He ended putting some of the delicious Greek yogurt bleu cheese dressing we had ordered with our roasted sweet potato side dish to cool down his fiery bowl (fiery spice, that is—thermally, it was room temperature). That kind of cross-cultural culinary experience probably happens often at CoreLife. He also made several trips

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back to the colorful array of dispensers of cold fruit, veggie, and tea drinks—some of which, like beet lemonade, were both unique and delicious. The counter staff had encouraged us to mix the brews and taste many; refills come gratis.

For my second visit, with a friend who's been a fan of CoreLife since it opened, we ordered healthy salad bowls. I enjoyed the sriracha ginger tofu and "ancient" grains, lightly customized with a half-spinach swap-out for the hefty kale base, plus lots of dried lemongrass. My friend replaced the rice in her ranch flank steak warm rice bowl with spinach—"to cut calories and add nutrition"—and switched the ranch dressing for cucumber-basil. We shared a side order of beets; it was a bit undercooked, but its miso-sesame-ginger was another winner among dressings.

As we headed out to the soundtrack of Rihanna's *Wild Thoughts*, I realized it's probably possible to work the Core-

Life concept until you get exactly what you want. Deals await those who figure out the smartest swaps allowed without a surcharge, but I would need more than two visits to master that. Those who eat gluten-free, vegan, paleo, raw, or another special diet should find it easier to be satisfied here than at most places in town. Once you're comfortably versed in the CoreLife system, you can even order ahead.

—M.B.L.

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
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table talk

Vertex Coffee Roasters, the newly opened cafe at the corner of South University and Washtenaw, is looking to expand beyond coffee with a monthly mocktail event designed to attract students and others looking for a nonalcoholic way to spend an evening.

Taking place every Thursday and Friday between 5–8 p.m., the dry bar is co-owner Kara Huckabone's way of increasing the reach of her coffee shop into the evening, while at the same time serving as a safe place for those in recovery or for whom going to a bar is otherwise unappealing.

"We are on a street that is very heavy with nightlife," Huckabone explains, "so we were thinking about how we could maybe be a part of that. And in Ann Arbor, there's really no place that serves as a dry bar."

"A lot of places serve alcohol with mocktails, but there's still alcohol. We kept thinking, there are people that either don't drink or aren't old enough to drink, or just don't really want to be around alcohol, and we could maybe be that place for people to hang out in the evening."

Two of the Vertex staff came up with the menu items, which range from a Tim Collins—a play on a Tom Collins with a spiced juniper simple syrup and lemon—to a shandy made with lemonade and Milan Coffee Works' hopped, flash-chilled coffee.

While it's still early days for the mocktail evenings, Huckabone has been in touch with U-M's Collegiate Recovery Program and hopes to encourage other groups such as religious organizations to attend in the future. "We're trying to spread the learning and get more people in the door," Huckabone says. "It's very much like a little baby: it's fun to watch it grow."

—Fionn Pooler

For merrymakers in Ann Arbor, it's relatively easy to find birthday freebies at restaurants, like the free desserts at Zingerman's Roadhouse and Knight's Steakhouse. There's even a searchable database in the Restaurants section of AnnArborObserver.com (choose "restaurant search," then click on the birthday discount symbol).

But **Ruth's Chris Steak House** on S. Fourth Ave. goes a step further. Not only do diners receive a free dessert, they get a deal on their meal: a percentage discount equal to their age. (Longtime Ann Arborites might remember that Bill Knapp's made a similar birthday meal offer.)

Along with a free dessert on their birthday, Ruth's Chris diners get a deal on their meal: a percentage discount equal to their age.

General manager Keith Rossi notes that the deal is good just for the birthday celebrant, not the entire party, and does not include alcohol. The diner must present ID showing their birth date.

Rossi says the restaurant prefers that diners come in on their birthday, but they'll honor the discount within three days before or after. And that's on top of the free birthday dessert offered at all the chain's 150 restaurants worldwide.

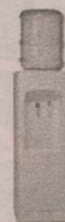
So could a centenarian actually dine free? Absolutely, says Rossi, who came on board at Ruth's Chris this fall after working at other area restaurants. In fact, he says, they'll comp dinner starting at age ninety-five. "If they've made it to that age," he says, "we'll take care of their bill."

—Micheline Maynard

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printed in ann arbor

land of a thousand flavors

HOLIDAYS ARE HAPPIER AT ZINGERMAN'S!

catering options from zingerman's!

While much of the world knows Zingerman's for the Deli's nationally-renowned sandwiches, the Bakehouse's breads and brownies, ribs and fried chicken from the Roadhouse, it turns out that inside the Zingerman's Community, catering is an ever-increasing avenue of business. "Most folks in Ann Arbor don't realize it, but there are actually six different catering sources inside of Zingerman's. The first catering event in the country took place in 1788—two centuries later, Zingerman's is continuing to break new ground."

The Deli's Catering leads the pack with everything from roast chicken dinners to Deli platters. Cornman Farms hosts everything from weddings to business parties, bar mitzvahs to baby showers. There's also Zingerman's Roadhouse bringing barbecue, fried chicken, and their nationally-known mac and cheese. Our newest restaurant, Miss Kim, offers a creative Korean menu for the perfect appetizers and late night party snacks. Zingerman's Greyline has a central downtown location for catered events that are housed in the historic, restored Greyhound bus station. Emanating from Zingerman's Southside—on Plaza Drive, near the Ann Arbor Airport—Zingerman's Creamery is cranking out world-class cheese trays. Add in incredible special occasion cakes—weddings, birthdays, holidays—from Zingerman's Bakehouse, and consumers are coming to the conclusion that the Zingerman's Community has a wider range of options than anyone north of the Ohio border!

Learn more at zingermanscommunity.com/zingermans-catering

food gifts fly around the country as zingerman's mail order spreads holiday cheer!

New studies emerging are consistently showing that great food makes an exceptional gift. While laptops, smart phones, and televisions remain popular, it's the low-tech options that are gaining ground with those in the know. "It's all about going back to the old ways—handmade food sends the message that we care and craft. Craft in relationships, craft in relation to the increasingly industrial mainstream. Craft food is made with love, and that love carries through all the way from here to California," said a leading national gifting expert. "Zingerman's is a place that food-loving gift-givers have been going to for decades—gift boxes, baskets, artisan bread, all-butter coffee cakes, Magic brownies, single-estate olive oils, cheeses, and more will be leaving Mail Order headquarters by the thousands every day this month."

The two top hits? Sources say all signs point towards the Zingerman's Reuben Kit to repeat as national champion. Paul M., a customer from North Carolina shared that the "... Reuben Sandwich Kit absolutely floored my parents. Easily the best present I have ever gotten

them. They cannot stop talking about how great it was." *Food & Wine* called it, "The best Reuben in America!" A close second on the list of best sellers? The Zingerman's Bacon Club—it's received raves from food press folks for years now. Celebrity chef Michael Symon says of it, "The best thing I ever ate." The equally famous Bobby Flay found it a "Fantastic gift!" *Men's Journal* reveals it's "The country's finest slabs of hog."

The year's sleeper? Insiders indicate it could well be Bostock, the almond frangipane-filled, sugar-dusted, butter-laden brioche pastries from Zingerman's Bakehouse. Author and baker Amy Emberling opines: "I fell in love with Bostock in 1999 while visiting our baking/mentor Michael London in Saratoga Springs, New York."

Michael brought us pastry after pastry to taste and Bostock stood out as the best—complex, buttery, almond, orange, rummy flavor and moist, soft texture with caramelized edges. Some people say it's a morning pastry, but I also like to use it as an element in a dessert. Warm it up and serve it with an appropriate flavor of gelato and a little candied ginger." Bostock ships beautifully. National food gift experts are forecasting that this could be the next big thing! Find your perfect gift at zingermans.com!



book bundles bring joy to business readers

The Times has learned that fans of alternative business books around the world have been buzzing over the bundle deals being offered at Zingerman's featuring tomes authored by co-founder Ari Weinzwieg. A sought-after speaker around the world (his recent stage appearances include Dublin, Chicago, and Seattle), Weinzwieg's writings are widely read among progressive leaders in businesses and non-profit organizations of all sorts. Of his recently published pamphlet, "The Art of Business," author of *Joy, Inc.*, Rich Sheridan said, "Don't just read this piece ... devour it. Taste each sentence, roll it around in your mind for the deliciousness of thought it offers. Ari Weinzwieg gives us all the permis-



A trio of bundles are getting national attention:

- Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4 of the Zingerman's Guide to Good Leading series \$100
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- "All the Secret Pamphlets"—29 individually printed essays by Weinzwieg in easy-to-carry, easy-to-read pamphlet forms \$245.95

sion we need to pursue that originality we all deserve and are uniquely qualified to offer the world." Simran Sethi, author of *Bread, Wine, Chocolate: the Slow Loss of Foods We Love*, called "The Art of Business" a "gem!"

All the books and pamphlets are designed and printed here in Ann Arbor! The bundles are available for shipping at zingtrain.com or by special order in any of the Zingerman's businesses.

2019 holiday blend brewing up super smooth coffee flavor

Unnamed sources inside Washtenaw County's coffee community are reporting rave responses to the 2019 Zingerman's Holiday Blend. While the name sounds simple, the flavor, apparently, is anything but. Using connections inside Zingerman's, *The Times* made contact with Matthew Bodary, blendmaster behind this year's offering, who was willing to share the behind-the-scenes story: "Every year we go for something new and special, balanced and super smooth. The mix of natural and pulped-natural beans from Brazil's Daterra Estate contribute to the smooth, velvety body, and add a nice cocoa-like quality. The Costa Rica component, Hacienda Miramonte, adds natural sweetness and a caramel-like note. Started in 1917 by the matriarch of the Gurdian family, Lucila Duval de Morales, it is now operated by her great-grandson Ricardo. We rounded out the blend with Guatemalan beans from smallholders in the Antigua Valley. The coffee has a balanced, silky, subtly fruity profile that is classic for high-grown Guatemalans, and it adds another dimension of complexity to this blend." Experienced tasters on *The Times* team are recommending it brewed in a syphon pot. Insiders indicate it makes a marvelous espresso as well. Get yourself a cup at Zingerman's Coffee Co.!

attention food lovers!



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If you're looking for some long reads, check out our blog at zingermanscommunity.com



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Marketplace **Changes**

As Local As It Gets

Mike Vestergaard opens a farm store.

For the last ten years, Mike Vestergaard has been raising livestock on Wagner Rd. southwest of town. Now he's opening an on-site retail outlet, also called **Vestergaard Farms**.

In the newly built, red-barn-inspired shop, customers can buy frozen whole chickens, cuts of beef, and pork products like ham and bacon, all from animals raised on the farm's 152 acres.

The beef comes from Belted Galloway cows, a breed that stands out for both their distinctive large middle stripe and their resistance to the cold. "The reason why I went with them quite a few years ago is that they're really hearty," he says. "They thrive and gain weight even in these cold temperatures," leading to desirable fat-marbled meat. This year, Vestergaard produced 100 cows, 1,000 chickens, and twenty-five hogs, and next year he's aiming for even more.

Vestergaard grew up on a small farm in Denmark, where he later received a master's degree in dairy farming. He and his former wife moved to Ann Arbor in 1992, when she was accepted to graduate school at the U-M.

He'd always dreamed of starting a dairy farm but quickly realized it wasn't financially feasible.

"We looked into a few farms and made some budgets for them and figured out there was no way we were going to make it," he says. Instead, he started a playground installation company that he now runs with his sons, Max and Carsten.

In 2010, Vestergaard purchased the Wagner Rd. farm. It's part of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt, an initiative to preserve rural land near the city. Through the program, landowners agree to sell all or some of their development rights for cash and future tax benefits. In exchange they accept a permanent deed restriction that lim-

its the development of housing or businesses on the land. Vestergaard is grateful: he says he would not have been able to afford the farm without the program.

Vestergaard is also invested in the idea of ethical farming. He is committed to paying a living wage to his farm's small number of employees, and he says he does not use any pesticides or chemicals in the pastures where he grows his animals' feed. But they're not certified organic.

"My cows are all grass-fed," he says. "They are raised out on the pasture." But "if I want to be certified organic, the bedding straw has to come from an organic field, which doesn't make any sense to me. That bedding straw will cost me three times as much as if I go up to the neighboring farm and say 'Hey, let me buy some straw off your commercially farmed field' ... If [the cows] are getting high quality hay [to eat] from my hayfield, it is as organic as you can be."

Vestergaard also thinks the organic obsession has obscured the larger picture: "It has to do with the carbon footprint," he says. "Why are we buying beef that comes from California?"

"My whole vision with this store is to produce all the chicken, pork, and beef that I can on this farm, but I will support any other farmer." He is seeking out a vegetable farmer and any other local producers interested in supplying his store. He will also offer coffee and baked goods from Zingerman's, milk and cheese from nearby Calder Dairy, and donuts from the Washtenaw Dairy.

Vestergaard Farms (opening Dec. 2), 4408 S. Wagner Rd. (734) 929-2875. Daily 7 a.m.-7 p.m.. vestergaardfarms.com



Vestergaard's Wagner Rd. farm is part of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt—he says he couldn't have afforded it otherwise.

Thrive Comes Downtown

Juice and cleanses on E. Liberty

Since **Thrive Juicery** added a downtown location in October, owner Anna Mignery has been driving loads of fresh, cold-pressed juice from the company's E. Stadium Blvd. flagship three times a day.

"We still want to have our juice here as fresh as possible," says Mignery, perched on the Liberty Rd. store's window seat. The small brick building—formerly home to VinBar and Acme Mercantile—doesn't have the space for another industrial juice press, so Mignery and her employees shuttle in whatever customers are requesting.

So far, she says, things have been smooth, though a recent DoorDash delivery order for five turmeric shots caused a bit of a panic and a last-minute extra trip. "It's hard with online ordering, because you don't have the person right in front of you to say 'Hey, can we talk you into this instead?'"

The new Thrive, like the first, was designed by local ultramodern design firm Synecdoche, and they share bright white and dark wood themes. But the 1888 building presented a few unique challenges. "It was very important to our landlord for us not to do anything with the [hardwood] floors, and for food service you have to have a flat panel surface" to clean. As a compromise, they put a laminate lay-over with a look-alike wooden pattern in the work area behind the counter.

"The builders will tell you that this was an 'un-square' building," she adds, pointing wryly to a dramatically slanted cooler. "I just kept saying 'Embrace that' ... That's part of being in a historic building."

The two locations offer the same menu, which includes raw cold-pressed juices, smoothies, coffee, alkaline water, salads, and artisanal toasts. A newer addition to both is "E3Live," a bottled algae "superfood" with a number of purported healthy properties that can be added to juices.

Though they couldn't fit in a juice press, Mignery has placed a working cit-



Anna and Andy Mignery are bringing most juices in from their E. Stadium shop, but citrus fruits are juiced in-store.

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Marketplace Changes

rus juicer in the window. "We can do oranges, grapefruits, and lemons," she says. "We bottle [in the morning] for the day, but we have lots of customers that want to do it or want to watch it happen, so that's fine too."

She and her husband, Andy, whose Texas-based real estate job keeps him traveling too much to take a hands-on role like Anna's, opened the first Thrive last January. The couple, both former U-M athletes, were inspired by the results they had from juicing at home and decided to build a business around it.

For those looking to try one of Thrive's many juice cleanse programs, Mignery recommends starting off cautiously. "I always say 'start with one or two days. You can always call us and add on, but don't take a leap' ... It's really difficult, and I don't want [anyone] to feel like I led them to believe it was going to be a breeze, you know?"

"It's like running a marathon. It's really hard when you're doing it, but when you're done you feel great."

Thrive Juicery, 111 W. Liberty. (734) 585-5221. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. thrive-juicery.com

Briefly noted

We reported in May that **Mighty Good Coffee** would be shutting down all four of its cafés by the end of the summer, in the wake of a dispute with the Washtenaw Area Coffee Workers Association union.

Patrons of Arbor Hills may have noticed that the shopping center's **Mighty Good** appears to have remained open, but a quick online search reveals that Google Maps' designation for the Washtenaw Ave. location is now **Mighty Good Café** and is designated as "independently owned and operated."

New owner Steven Hyun acquired the café in September. Per manager Elisa Jin, the café has all new staff, none associated with WACWA, but the offerings have stayed the same.

In the Works

When we spoke to **Bagel Fragel** owner Patricia Rockette one year ago, she and her son (co-owner Michael Rockette) had just lost their longtime Plymouth Rd. location after their new Ohio-based landlords signed the spot over to a new marijuana dispensary owned by one of the landlords' partners.

An online uproar won the Rockettes an extension on their lease beyond the original two days' notice, but the only home of the deep-fried "fragel" closed just before last Christmas.

Now, the Rockettes are getting ready to reopen in a small shop inside Washtenaw Ave.'s Washtenaw Commons. The former **Cartridge World** is waiting on some construction and a few permits, but Rockette is hoping to be open before

2020, almost exactly one year after leaving Plymouth Rd.

"It's small, but it's all we could find," she says. "You work with what you've got, and it's a great location. It has enough room so that we can bake and make all of our stuff, so we're good. That's the main thing: being able to make everything fresh still."

Bagel Fragel, (opening late December), 3500 Washtenaw. Phone & hours TBA. facebook.com/bagelfragel

• • •

Forty-seven years after the first Hash Bash was held on the U-M Diag, Ann Arborites will be able to legally buy recreational marijuana. **Exclusive Brands**, a marijuana dispensary and growing facility on Varsity Dr., received the state's first (and, as we went to press, only) retail license in late November, and will commence retail sales on December 1. Exclusive was the first to apply, shortly after midnight on the day the Michigan Marijuana Regulatory Agency opened the window for applications

The change comes a little over a year after Michigan voters legalized recreational use. The ballot initiative gave municipalities the option to prohibit or regulate sales within their boundaries, and 80 percent, including Detroit, opted out. Many of the more than fifty applications so far came from businesses in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Though Exclusive Brands will be the city's exclusive provider on December 1, it will soon have company. A number of existing medical marijuana businesses, including the Skymint, Herbology, and Bloom City Club dispensaries, have also applied for retail licenses.

Closings

Dickey's Barbecue Pit closed abruptly in mid November, with an eviction notice from Fifteenth District court posted on the franchise's door. The notice gave the tenants twenty-four hours to evacuate, and the restaurant put up its own closing notice and voicemail that day. We were unable to reach Will Kaufman, the last-known owner, but Dickey's answering machine announced, "Unfortunately we are permanently closed. Thank you, Ann Arbor, for all your support."

• • •

In another sudden closing, **Former Vintage**, whose summer opening we covered in our October issue, vacated its spot on E. Liberty just a couple weeks into October. Owner Jordan Werthmann, who opened the Nineties-style used clothing store as an expansion of his first Royal Oak store, did not return our call. The Royal Oak store remains open. ■

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sabine@aaobserver.com or leave voicemail at (734) 769-3175 x 309.

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ArborVacuum.com

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(734) 761-3653

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(810) 227-6617



Abracadabra

Family-owned **Abracadabra Jewelry and Gem Gallery** has been an Ann Arbor source for beautiful and unique pieces since 1974. Explore the curated collections from local artists, national designers, and fair-trade jewelry from around the world and find a piece that speaks to you this holiday. Ethical gemstones and diamonds are offered, as well as recycled metals in all price points for every shopper. Abracadabra offers on-site jewelry repair, vintage restoration, and custom design.

205 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 994-4848

Afternoon Delight

A staple in Ann Arbor since 1978, cozy **Afternoon Delight** offers delicious food, friendly service, and reasonable prices. Afternoon Delight wants to cater your holiday this season, allowing you more time with your guests and less time in the kitchen! Professional catering services are available for any size party, and their knowledgeable staff can help you create a menu perfect for your event. For healthy food that tastes great, stop by to satisfy your enormous pan-grilled pancake craving, or check out the extensive menu including customized three-egg omelets, endless salad bar, and fresh deli sandwiches made to order.

251 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 665-7513

Ann Arbor City Club

Shop beautiful and original holiday gifts at the 36th annual **Ann Arbor City Club Art and Craft Festival** on Saturday, December 7, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The juried show featuring 50 exhibitors will showcase ceramics, photography, jewelry, nature crafts, wood working, watercolors, textile art, chocolate delights, and much more! Choose from a variety of holiday greens: wreaths, roping, poinsettias, and ribbon bows that are available for purchase. Easy and free parking, \$3 admission, and lunch is available 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

1830 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 662-3279

Arbor Vacuum

Since 1974, **Arbor Vacuum** has been a trusted source of quality small appliances for the home. Shop vacuums, Wüsthof cutlery, eBikes, and KitchenAid countertop appliances. Get your house ready for hosting with Hoover, Eureka, Royal, Dyson, Riccar, and Miele vacuums. Arbor Vacuum also offers vacuum repair and servicing, and cutlery and scissor sharpening. With a variety of holiday gift ideas, from stainless 8-piece steak knives, classic 7-piece block sets, 2-piece classic carving set, and hand-held sharpeners, Arbor Vacuum is a great place to shop local this year.

1226 Packard St, Ann Arbor, (734) 761-3677

295 N Zeeb, Ann Arbor, (734) 761-3653

2990 Carpenter Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 973-2990

9812 E Grand River, Brighton, (810) 227-6617

Ballet Chelsea

Looking for a great holiday gift for the whole family? Why not make a new holiday tradition with **Ballet Chelsea** and its 22nd annual production of *The Nutcracker* on December 7-8 and 14-15! This holiday classic is a full-length, narrated ballet, choreographed by Ballet Chelsea's Artistic Director Wendi DuBois and features the talents of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra and Musical Director, Matthew Aubin. Audiences young and old from all over southern Michigan return year after year for this family-friendly holiday favorite. *The Nutcracker* tells a magical story of a Christmas Eve long ago. Join Ballet Chelsea on a magical journey combining the beauty of ballet, the excitement of live music and the joy of a classic holiday story. Create new memories this holiday season! Buy your tickets today at balletchelsea.org, and don't forget to check out the variety of classes offered at Ballet Chelsea for people of all ages and levels. Give the gift of dance and experience the magic this holiday season!

1050 S Main St, Chelsea, (734) 475-3070, info@balletchelsea.org

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Celebrate the holiday season at **Bethlehem United Church of Christ**. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Choose from three Christmas Eve worship services: 5 p.m. Family Centered Candlelight Service; 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols, Candlelight and a Musical Celebration; and 11 p.m. Communion Service with Candlelight and Harp. Located in downtown Ann Arbor, and serving the community for nearly 185 years, Bethlehem United Church of Christ is an open and affirming church where all are welcome.

423 S 4th Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 665-6149

Deck the Halls!

Shop at the Kiwanis Thrift Sale!

Holiday Gifts & Decorations Sale
November 1st - January 11th
Fridays and Saturdays* 9am - 1pm

Special 2-Day Toy Sale
December 6th & 7th 9am - 1pm



*Kiwanis will be closed December 27th-28th, 2019.

100 N. Staebler Rd. off W. Jackson Rd.
(One mile west of Zeeb Rd.)

Official Sponsor of Warm the Children

Fridays & Saturdays 9am - 1pm | a2kiwanis.org | 734-368-9738 | [f](#) [i](#)

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor



A Boychoir Christmas

7 PM Friday December 13
Concordia University Chapel
4090 Geddes Road

3 PM Saturday December 14
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
1432 Washtenaw Avenue

Tickets are available for advance purchase directly from
The Boychoir of Ann Arbor and BoychoirA2.eventbrite.com.

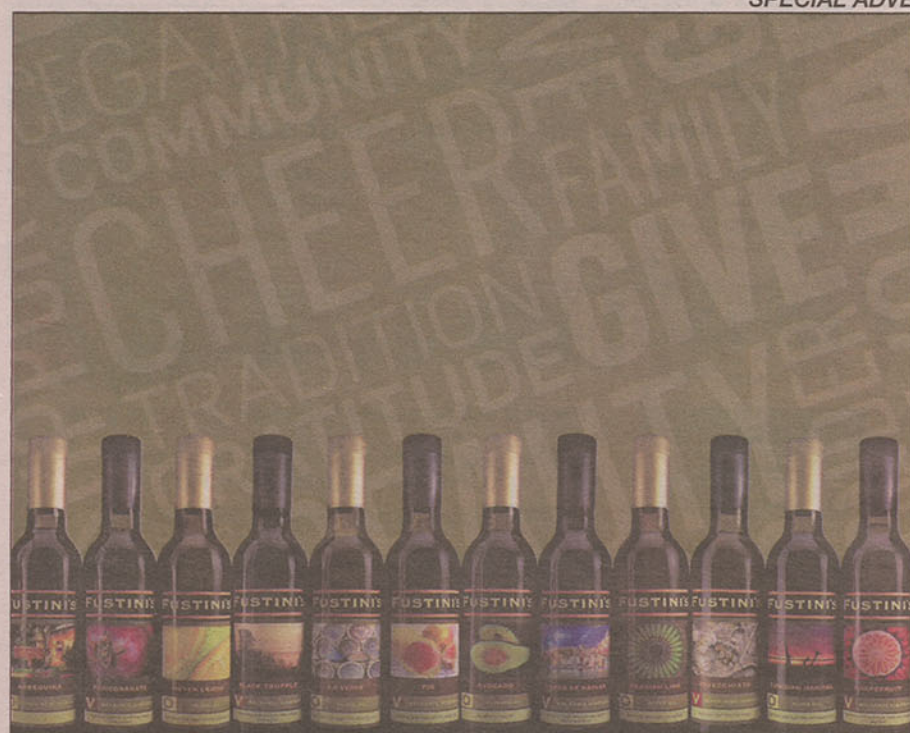
\$20 Adults, \$15 Students & Seniors, Free for children
tickets@a2boychoir.org (734) 663-5377

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Boychoir of Ann Arbor

The **Boychoir of Ann Arbor** celebrates its 33rd annual presentation of *A Boychoir Christmas*. This special holiday concert offers an opportunity to hear the unique and glorious sound of this outstanding local choir of all boys. Under the leadership of Music Director Dr. John Boonenberg, and accompanied by organist Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans, the choir performs a variety of Christmas hymns and carols. In keeping with tradition, the audience will once again be invited to join in singing "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "O Come, all ye faithful," featuring soaring descants sure to get you in the holiday spirit. Two performances: Friday, December 13, 7 p.m., Concordia University Chapel, and Saturday, December 14, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. This performance is a wonderful holiday music tradition for the whole family.

Tickets are available for advance purchase directly from the Boychoir of Ann Arbor, or online at BoychoirA2.eventbrite.com. \$20 Adults, \$15 Seniors & Students, free for children. tickets@a2boychoir.org, (734) 663-5377

Calder Dairy & Farm

Calder Dairy & Farm is ready for your holiday dinner, and it's never been easier to get dinner on the table! Calder Dairy was established in 1946 with the vision to deliver farm fresh premium dairy products to local homes. Delivered straight to your door is fresh vat pasteurized milks and creams, farm fresh butter, sour cream, chip dips, eggs, and premium ice cream. Calder's world-famous eggnog has traveled with customers all over the U.S. and is a family favorite for many! Shop local for sweet stocking stuffers: Awrey's baked goods, Mighty Good Coffee, jams and preserves, Ghost Pepper Habanero or Lavender infused honey, or Calder's Farm Fresh Fudge. Currently delivering to Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw, and southwestern Oakland counties. To become a home delivery customer or to learn more, call the Dairy Store at (313) 381-8858 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Calder Farm: 9334 Finzel Rd, Carleton, (734) 654-2622

Calder Dairy & Store: 1020 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, (313) 381-8858

Calder Store: 28190 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, (734) 984-6985

CHOW

If your ideal holiday dinner is more bao buns and bubble tea than turkey and stuffing, **CHOW** Asian Street Food is the ideal place for you! Order online at chowannarbor.com, and have pork belly or coconut beef bao buns, pork masala or vegetable shiitake dumplings, and a variety of rice and noodle bowls delivered right to your door with Toast or Grubhub. Your guests are sure to love Klepon, an Indonesian dessert of sweet potato dumplings stuffed with caramel and rolled in coconut. Gift cards make the perfect stocking stuffer!

208 W Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 369-6942

Comfort Keepers

For many, an important part of the holidays is celebrating with family. **Comfort Keepers** is there to help keep your family together this season, providing specialized care for an aging loved one who requires extra help to remain at home. Comfort Keepers can ease the pressure on family and friends while providing reliable, expert in-home care. Create new memories at home, and let Comfort Keepers help make your holiday brighter, safer, and more enjoyable for all.

7910 Ann Arbor St, Ste 2, Dexter, (734) 234-8277

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

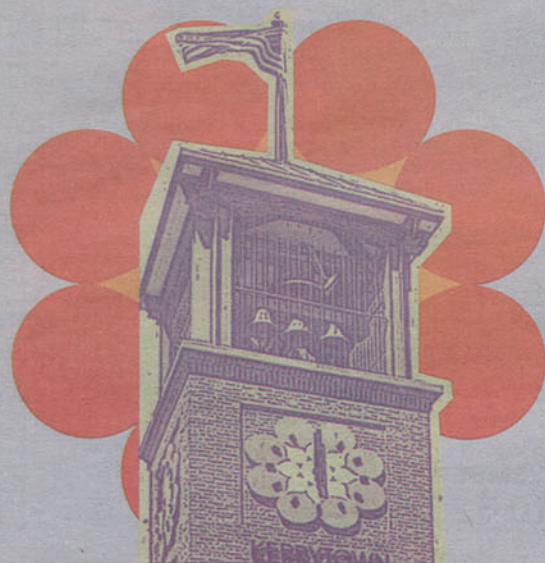
First United Methodist Church campuses are buzzing with activity this season and all are invited! Downtown on Saturday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m., Rutter's Brother Heinrich's Christmas will be presented at 9:30 a.m. worship. Downtown on December 8 children offer their Christmas musical, *Spirit of Christmas* in worship at 9:30 a.m. At Green Wood on Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m., a service of Light in Darkness, where we remember we are not alone in our struggles during this demanding season. Sunday, December 15 downtown, the choir and orchestra offer Bach's Cantata No. 140 at 9:30 a.m. worship. That same day at 4:00 p.m., youths offer their hilarious original Christmas drama *Bethlehem Air*. Christmas Eve downtown, everyone is invited to the following services: 5:00 p.m. for young children and their families; 7:30 p.m. family service featuring children & adult ensembles; and the 11:00 p.m. candlelight service with music provided by the Chancel Choir & Instrumental ensemble. Christmas Eve at Green Wood the 5:00 p.m. candlelight family service is open to all.

Downtown: 120 S State St, Ann Arbor, (734) 662-4536

Green Wood: 1001 Green Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 665-8558

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KINDLEFEST

MIDNIGHT
MADNESS

KERRYTOWN SHOPS OFFERING GREAT DEALS 'TIL MIDNIGHT.
 KINDLEFEST OPEN 4-10PM OUTSIDE WITH A SPECIAL KID ZONE FROM 4-6PM

Friday, December 6
Free and open to the public

Kerrytown merchants are open until midnight! Join us for festive music and great sales. Kindlefest takes place in the Farmers Market and features artisans and farmers selling their goods and wares. Music, fire pits, s'mores, beer, mulled wine, brats and more! Kids Zone from 4-6pm featuring crafts and entertainment with a visit from Santa at 6pm.



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 and Shops making
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Saturdays
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 Noon-12:30pm



Sunday, December 1 • 2pm
 "Be Nimble"
 1st floor inside Hollander's

Holiday Hours

KERRYTOWN SHOPS OPEN UNTIL 7PM
 WEEKDAYS IN DECEMBER!



Santa

Saturdays & Sundays!

SATURDAYS: DEC. 7, 14, 21 • 10AM-1PM
 SUNDAYS: DEC. 8, 15, 22 • 12-3PM

Visit Santa and enjoy festive music throughout the day inside the shops. Bring a can of food for the Food Gatherers Can Drive when you visit Santa.

Merry Tubachristmas

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 • 2PM
 FARMERS MARKET

This annual event is performed all over the US where tuba and euphonium players of all ages gather to perform traditional Christmas carols. Audience participation encouraged!

more info on all our events at

407 N. FIFTH AVE. | WWW.KERRYTOWN.COM | 734.662.5008



1ST FLOOR MARKET: M-F 8AM-7PM | SAT 7AM-6PM | SUN 9AM-6PM • 2ND FLOOR MERCHANTS: M-F 10AM-6PM | SAT 9AM-6PM | SUN 11AM-5PM

HOLIDAY HOURS FOR THE 2ND FLOOR SHOPS BEGIN ON FRIDAY, NOV. 29: M - F 10AM - 7PM | SAT 9AM - 6PM | SUN 11AM - 5PM

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The Nutcracker



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balletchelsea.org

jacksonsymphony.org

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Found

Explore the winter wonderland of holiday décor and gifts at **Found**. This year's creative holiday display themes include Snowy Whites, Nordic Dreams, Grandpas Rah! Rah! window, and a Faux Tree Lot. Unique handcrafted gifts, art, jewelry, candles, and home goods are available at Found.

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops,
415 N 5th Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 302-3060

Fran Coys Salon and Spa

Family owned and operated since 1977, **Fran Coys Salon and Spa** is more than just hair. Treat yourself or a loved one this holiday with a therapeutic massage, hot stone therapy, vitamin therapy facial, or a variety of non-surgical anti-aging and skin care treatments. Spa packages make the perfect gift that they won't return. Lash extensions, airbrush tanning, hair removal, and makeup application and lessons are also available. Visit francoysalon.com to purchase gift certificates.

418 S Wagner Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 665-7207

Fustini's

Fustini's in Kerrytown Market & Shops offers a selection of gifts perfect for the foodies on your list! Fustini's specialty oils and vinegars, cookbooks, cooking classes, and gift cards make the perfect hostess or corporate gifts. Shop Michigan products from Barrel Aged Honey Vinegar, Bourbon Barrel Aged Maple Syrup, and Great Lakes Bee Co.'s unique twist on honey blended with lemon, pepper, and cinnamon. Fustini's oils and vinegars make a wonderful addition to many recipes, in everything from appetizers and entrées, through desserts and even beverages. Shop fustinis.com, shipping is available throughout the country!

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops,
407 N 5th Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 213-1110

Giving It All Away: The Story of William W. Cook and His Michigan Law Quadrangle by Margaret A. Leary

If you're searching for a unique gift for Law Quad and local history fans, U-M alum, or Cookies, **Giving It All Away: The Story of William W. Cook and His Michigan Law Quadrangle by Margaret A. Leary** is sure to please. Leary tells the story of William M. Cook, born in 1858, and a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. After making his fortune, Cook donated one of the finest facilities of any existing law school to U-M, and resources for the law school to engage in groundbreaking legal research. His generosity proved controversial, and eventually very litigious. Leary brings William W. Cook's story to life in this gripping book on sale now.

Available at: Nicola's Bookstore, 2513 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor,
(734) 662-0600 and Amazon.com

Humane Society of Huron Valley

Give warm fuzzies this holiday season! Choose a unique gift from the **Humane Society of Huron Valley** to delight every animal lover on your list. Whether you name an animal, sponsor a kennel, get a personalized paver, sponsor a whole van load of puppies, buy something from their store, get a gift certificate for adoption, or donate in someone's name, you're making a real difference for the homeless, injured, and abused animals right here, in our community. Your tax-deductible gift goes directly to care for the animals; HSHV has received Charity Navigator's topmost rating for fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. See more at HSHV.org/holiday or call to make a gift over the phone: (734) 661-3571.

3100 Cherry Hill Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 662-5585

Kerrytown Market & Shops

Located in Kerrytown's Historic Market District, and steps away from downtown, **Kerrytown Market & Shops** offers the best in one-of-a-kind shops and eateries. Find a gift for everyone on your list, while being transported to the charm of an earlier time in the locally owned shops full of handcrafted goods, jewelry, paper, and toys. Step into the market where smoked fish, delicious sausages, and wines from around the world are waiting to be wrapped up and taken home. All are invited to the annual Kerrytown KindleFest, a free and outdoor holiday market featuring local and regional artisans and farmers selling hand-crafted ornaments, toys, and unique holiday gifts, as well as German foods, sweets and beverages.

407 N 5th Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 662-5008



presents

The YEOMEN of the GUARD

or The Merryman and His Maid



December 5, 6, 7 at 8pm
December 7, 8 at 2pm

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For more gift ideas that pay it forward, see hshv.org/holiday



Humane Society of
Huron Valley

3100 Cherry Hill Rd, Ann Arbor
P: 734.662.5585

GIVING IT ALL AWAY

The Story of William W. Cook and His Michigan Law Quadrangle

BY MARGARET A. LEARY

Ann Arbor, 2011, 304 pages, \$25

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Generations of Michigan Law grads have passed on myths about their generous but eccentric benefactor . . . Now Margaret Leary has given us the real story, and it reads like a gripping whodunit.

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36th Annual

Ann Arbor City Club Art and Craft Festival

Saturday, December 7, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ceramics
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Wood Working
Watercolors

Textiles/Fabric Art
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Much More!

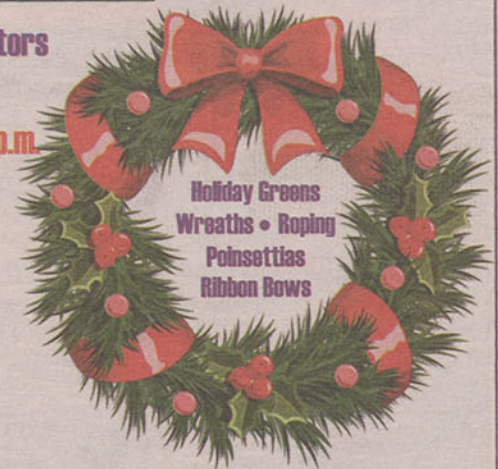
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Lunch available 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

\$3 Admission • Free parking



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DECEMBER 7: Visit our display at the **Art & Craft Festival** at the **Ann Arbor City Club**, 9am - 4pm

DECEMBER 8: Visit our display at **Artisan Market** at **Argus Farm Stop**, 1200 Packard Road, 10am - 2pm

www.workerbeejewelry.com ~ 734-353-9918



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107 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 769-7759

Kiwanis Thrift Sale

Donate and shop this holiday season at **The Kiwanis Thrift Sale of Ann Arbor!** The Holiday Gifts and Decorations Sale takes place every Friday and Saturday from November 1st to January 11th. Check out bargains on Christmas trees, seasonal gifts and decorations, and household goods and furniture. Also stop by for the second annual 2-day Toy Sale on December 6th and 7th. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kiwanis helps kids in our community. Your contribution makes it possible. Thank you for your on-going support!

100 N Staebler Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 368-9738

Logan

Chef Thad Gillies was Executive Chef at Zingerman's Delicatessen for 10 years, before he took a leave of absence to work in New York City at Lespinasse and Union Square Café. It was there that the vision for Logan was first conceived. Bring your family and friends to **Logan** this holiday, and see why it has earned the reputation of being one of Ann Arbor's best restaurants. Logan's menu is new American cuisine, which for them means honoring French techniques with contemporary American influence. Beverage manager Raleigh Juchartz is always crafting new cocktails to make each visit to Logan unique and wonderful. Reservations and gift certificates are available at logan-restaurant.com.

115 W Washington, Ann Arbor, (734) 327-2312

Randazzo Dance Company

Visions of sugar plums and flurries of snow will once again come to life on stage as the **Randazzo Dance Company** presents three performances of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* at the Power Center. Guest dancers from the highly acclaimed Boston Ballet, artistic director Mikko Nissinen, will be joining the stage with over 100 local ballet students. Visit randazzodancecompany.com to purchase tickets or for more information on these special events. Show times: Saturday, December 21: 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 22: 2:00 p.m. The Patron donations are: \$25 for Premium Seats, \$15 for Mid-Level Seats, \$10 for Gallery Seats.

4569 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 477-9350

Real Irish

Real Irish gifts from real Irish people, this specialty store is the place for authentic jewelry, caps, home goods, and more! Choose from a large selection of Irish Donegal tweed caps, wraps, sportswear, and sweaters. New arrivals are delivered daily to the downtown Ann Arbor store. Give the gift of travel! Real Irish will be traveling to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales in 2020. Don't miss out on your chance to experience a Real Irish small group tour. More info at: realirishtravel.com

213 S 4th Ave, Ann Arbor, realirish.com, (734) 846-2025 and info@realirish.com

Red Shoes

Shop original artwork, jewelry, home goods, vintage, and more at **Red Shoes**. Relocated and ready for you this holiday season, Red Shoes is full of unique and beautiful gifts crafted by local artists, small design studios, and handmade goods from around the globe. Owner Catherine handpicks every item in the shop, from retail products to vintage goods, that she would be proud to have in her own home and has chosen from the heart.

2386 E Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, (734) 358-0150, redshoeshomegoods.com

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor

All are invited to celebrate **Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor's** 39th annual Winter Festival on Saturday, December 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Explore the Crystal Cave, have a tasty treat, and enjoy a festive song! With live music, puppet theater, children's activities, crafts, and an artisan market, this event is one for the entire family! Wind a wool jump rope, make a beeswax candle, or take a cakewalk. Little ones will be enchanted by the magic of the children-only gift shop!

2775 Newport Rd, Ann Arbor, steinerschool.org

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Zion Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

2 pm Family Service

5 pm Tableau Worship

6:15 pm Musical Prelude

7 pm Traditional Service

9 pm Candlelight Service



CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP

10 am

1501 W. Liberty • Ann Arbor
734.994.4455 • www.zlc-aa.org



Find us on Facebook @
Zion Lutheran Ann Arbor

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

Downtown:
120 S. State St. at Huron
Regular Sunday worship at 9:30 & 11:15 am

Green Wood:
1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way
Regular Saturday worship at 5 pm

www.fumc-a2.org
734.662.4536

Are you looking for hope?

If you don't like what you see happening out there, you will find hope here. At First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor, we welcome everyone! Young or old, Democrat or Republican, gay or straight, genderqueer or cisgender, filled with doubts or firm in your faith — you are invited to join us. Our congregation is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which tears down walls and builds up community. We are progressive, relevant, and committed to seeking peace and building hope through worship, service, social justice, and education.

Join us and commit yourself to living a life that nurtures hope within you and embodies hope in the world.

Live Nativity


During Midnight Madness

Come to Bethlehem
(United Church of Christ)

423 S. 4th Ave. Downtown Ann Arbor
Friday, December 6, 6-8:30 p.m.



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New friends and treasures are found every day at **Treasure Mart**. Shop unique vintage finds, from jewelry, to pottery, to furniture and artwork. If your resolution this year is to finally clear out yours or a family member's attic or basement, let someone else enjoy the goods that are no longer serving your lifestyle. Appraisals are available for insurance and estate purposes. Occasionally, Treasure Mart will conduct estate sales onsite when there are enough items to make it worthwhile for the consignor and Treasure Mart. Throughout the month of December, enjoy \$10 off your purchase of \$50 or more with the coupon in the Observer's ad.

529 Detroit St, Ann Arbor, (734) 662-1363

U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Founded in 1947, **U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society** is the oldest student-run society nationwide dedicated to performing the operettas of Sir William Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan. Each year, UMGASS brings together students and community members for two fully staged productions of Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, which are performed with orchestra at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre in downtown Ann Arbor. This holiday season, bring family and friends to experience *The Yeomen of the Guard* December 5-8. Stay tuned for spring show details on H.M.S. Pinafore April 9-12! For additional details: (734) 647-8436 or umgass.org.

Tickets: umgass.brownpapertickets.com

Performances:

December 5-8 The Yeomen of the Guard
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
911 N University Ave, Ann Arbor

January 12 mass meeting for H.M.S. Pinafore
Michigan League, room TBD

January 13-16 auditions for H.M.S. Pinafore
Student Theater Arts Complex, 1201 Kipke Dr, Ann Arbor

April 9-12 H.M.S. Pinafore
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

West Side Book Shop

Explore rare and used books at **West Side Book Shop** this holiday season and find something for the readers and book collectors in your life. Browse the cozy downtown shop, where proprietor Jay Platt thoughtfully buys and sells books held to the Antiquarian Bookseller's Association of America's standards. Gift certificates are available.

113 W Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 995-1891

Worker Bee Jewelry

The perfect gift for the bee lover on your gift list! **Worker Bee Jewelry** creates beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry by casting natural found objects, including bees, in sterling silver. Their new Honeybee Collection honors the majestic and wondrous beauty of *Apis mellifera*, the honeybee. WBJ repurposes dead honeybees, dips them in liquified wax, then paints the wings with a light wax. Finally, the wings are spread apart for a realistic look of the bee in flight. Silverwork is all done in Michigan; bees are supplied by local beekeepers. A portion of their proceeds support the following: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2), Hermelin Brain Tumor Center. Their gallery of products will be available on workerbeejewelry.com on December 2, 2019. Visit their table at the **Art & Craft Festival at the Ann Arbor City Club** on December 7, and at the **Artisan Market at Argus Farm Stop** on Packard.

workerbeejewelry.com, (734) 353-9918

Zion Lutheran Church

At **Zion Lutheran Church**, they seek to know Christ, grow in Christ, and make Christ known. Zion opens their doors and hearts to all people in our community. Come celebrate the season with them; Christmas Eve services are at 2, 5, 7, and 9 p.m. Christmas Day service is 10:00 a.m. Zion Lutheran Church welcomes and accepts all.

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Music at Nightspots

folk-pop

by John Hinchey & James M. Manheim
Listings are based on information available at press time. Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com, but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.

Ann Arbor Distilling Co. 220 Felch 882-2169

This boutique distillery features live music in its Tiny Corner stage in the tasting room (or on the patio in summer if the weather is nice), Fri. & Sat. 7-9 p.m. and Sun. 5:30-7:30 p.m. **Every Sun.: Brennan Andes & Friends.** Jazz ensemble led by Macpodz bassist Andes. **Dec. 6: Kyle Rhodes, Aaron Jonah Lewis, & Grace Van't Hof.** Good-time & old-time music with fiddles & banjos by this trio of Michigan multi-instrumentalists. **Dec. 7: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences include Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan. **Dec. 13: Tessa & Jordan Duo.** South Lyon duo whose eclectic repertoire includes 1930s blues, classic rock, and Americana covers. **Dec. 14: Gregory Stovetop.** Veteran Chelsea-bred, NYC-based postpunk pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences range from Elvis and Johnny Cash to Soundgarden and the Replacements. He recently released his debut CD, *The Good Stuff*. **Dec. 20: Joe Shelton.** Country-based Americana rock 'n' roll by this Muncie (IN) singer-songwriter. **Dec. 21: Acoustic Ash.** Stage name of Utica-based folk singer-songwriter Ash Harris, who cites Tracy Chapman, k.d. lang, and Sarah McLachlan as influences. **Dec. 27: Rob Crozier.** Solo performance by this local jazz bassist, who also plays ukulele, didgeridoo, and more. **Dec. 28: Cary Kocher.** Veteran local vibes player.

The Ark 316 S. Main 761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.-Sat. & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (relocated to the Michigan League during the Union's renovation) and the Ark, and at the door. **Dec. 1: Bill Kirchen & the Hounds of the Bakersfield.** Ann Arbor native (and former Commander Cody guitarist) Kirchen leads an ensemble that plays a versatile mix of hard-core honky-tonk, rockabilly, acoustic swing, and country-politan balladry. The *Austin American-Statesman* has praised his "no-nonsense diesel guitar attack, powered by great booming, bottom-heavy licks still covered with axle grease." This is Kirchen's usual holiday show, featuring his new band of Texas (not California) musicians. \$25. **Dec. 2: Irish Christmas in America.** This popular annual evening of Irish instrumental music, song, and dance, organized by fiddler **Oisín Mac Diarmada** of the renowned traditional Irish quintet Téada, features TG4 Irish TV Traditional Singer of the Year and accordionist **Séamus Begley** and Sligo-born vocalist **Niamh Farrell**. \$20. **Dec. 3: Lelf Vollebekk.** The music of Montreal songwriter Vollebekk has been described as inhabiting a space between Sigur Rós and Bob Dylan. He has a new album, *New Ways*. Opener is Montreal cellist, singer, and composer **Rebecca Foon**. \$15. **Dec. 4: Dead Horses.** Dead Horses is an Oshkosh (WI) folk quintet fronted by guitarist Sarah Vos, a singer-songwriter whose engaging coming-of-age story songs are set to music that draws imaginatively on old-time, gospel, bluegrass, and Midwest Americana idioms. They recently opened for The Who. \$20. **Dec. 5: Over the Rhine.** Heartland songwriter rock, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. Over the Rhine has a subtle progressive Christian orientation that's especially noticeable in their holiday-season shows. \$30. **Dec. 6: Red Wanting Blue.** Heartland rock by this veteran Columbus Americana quintet led by singer-songwriter Scott Terry. "And there is no denying the sheer melodic force of the lighter-waving ballads that dominate this set and the band's catalog," says *American Songwriter* critic Hal Horowitz. "Red Wanting Blue understands its strengths and works them with muscle and occasionally subtlety." Opener: **Sam Goodwill** (real name: Sam Buonavolontà, or "Sam Goodwill" in Italian), a rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter from Youngstown who just released an album called *Phthallo*. \$20. **Dec. 7: Livingston Taylor.** See review, above. The younger brother of James Taylor, who has recorded several of his songs, Livingston Taylor vocally resembles his more famous sibling. But his songs draw on a larger palette

Livingston Taylor *Esoteric in the best way*

Like Sherlock Holmes, James Taylor has an arguably smarter brother, Livingston, two and a half years younger. He had a few songs that rattled around the bottom of the top 100 in the 1970s, but he never approached James' chart success. That's because he's a whole different animal. His voice and his general bag of 1970s song styles instantly mark him as part of the same family and the same era as James and the other Taylor siblings, but his execution of those styles is more intricate and challenging. He has said that the two brothers admire each other but neither would want the other's career.

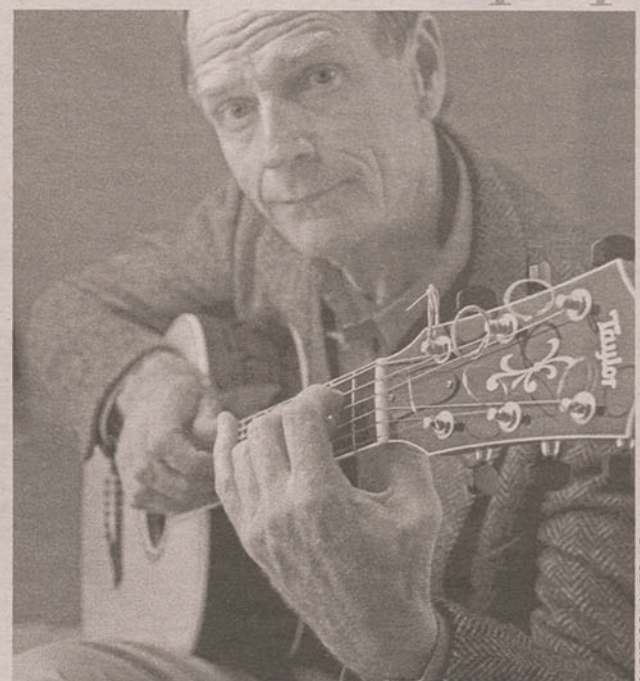
A simple tune is within his capabilities, but many of Livingston Taylor's songs are intricate indeed. He's one of few songwriters capable of complexity in both music and lyrics, and his structures cohere at a very high level. Sometimes his craft is deployed toward humorous ends, and he's quite an amusing storyteller, with an accent that draws equally on his Boston background and his North Carolina origins.

Most often, his subject is love. It takes a bit of an adjustment, in the present ironic age, to appreciate titles like "Loving Be My New

Horizon" and the really elegant "Lost in the Love of You," but it's an adjustment worth making. Taylor brings the depth of a Sondheim to his love songs.

He also does a variety of covers, among them some fine specimens of the Broadway show tune (although never Sondheim, to my knowledge). But there's nothing nostalgic about his treatments, and his song selections range widely: Harold Arlen, Stevie Wonder, the Beatles—he is one of the few who can make Beatles songs his own—Barry Mann, and Cynthia Weil.

Taylor has played the Ark periodically for many years, and the club is a great place for the focus his songs require. They are worked out in such detail that they are sometimes a bit esoteric, but esoteric in the best way. Taylor, now tuxedo-clad and as likely to play the piano



ALBIE COLANTONIO

as a guitar, is turning seventy soon, and this might be his last area show. He comes to the Ark December 7, with songwriter Rebecca Loebe as the opening act.

—James M. Manheim

that includes folk, pop, gospel, jazz, and, increasingly, Broadway tunes, whose example has lent his songwriting a melodic complexity and a capability for refined sentiment not often found in his brother's music. Opener: Austin Americana songwriter **Rebecca Loebe**. \$30. **Dec. 8: Jon McLaughlin.** Popular funk-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter from Anderson (IN). Tonight's show features music from his 2 holiday albums. Opener: Louisiana songwriter **Jordy Searcy**, a mentee of Pharrell Williams on *The Voice*. \$20 (\$50 includes a meet & greet). **Dec. 10: Chadwick Stokes & the Pintos.** Stokes is a Boston-area musician whose music reflects social and political concerns. Chosen as Humanitarian of the Year at the 2008 Boston Music Awards, Stokes, with his wife, Sybil, founded the nonprofit Calling All Crows, which focuses on women's issues worldwide. Opener: **Mihali**, the solo project of singer-guitarist Mihali Savoulidis, lead singer of the Vermont jam band Twiddle. \$25 + \$1 donation to Calling All Crows. **Dec. 12-14: Ebird & Friends Holiday Show.** Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the classy local eclectic band the Ragbirds who has also released a solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World*, is joined by several established and up-and-coming luminaries of the Michigan music scene for her very popular annual program of new and old holiday music, now in its 12th year. There is a 2nd show on Sat., a 3 p.m. matinee with \$15 tickets for kids 10 & under. \$25-\$50. **Dec. 16: Terry Farmer Band.** Longtime Detroit-area singer-songwriter and guitarist Farmer spent 2 years as lead guitarist for Jan & Dean, cofounded the chamber folk group Cairn to Cairn, and taught classical guitar at the Cleveland Institute of Music. His own shows and recordings feature a fusion of styles. \$20. **Dec. 17: Zachariah Malachi & the Hillbilly Executives.** Guitarist and singer-songwriter Malachi, of Tennessee background but now based in Detroit, has sung country-punk fusions but on his recent debut album has turned to classic country in the Hank Williams Sr. vein. Malachi and his band opened for Patti Smith at her recent Royal Oak Music Theatre show. \$20. **Dec. 18: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up (doors open 7:30) to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (\$2 members, seniors, & students). **Dec. 19: Anne Heaton.** Heaton, a recent local transplant from NYC, is a pop-folk singer-songwriter and pianist who cites Peter Gabriel, Tori Amos, and the Indigo Girls as her main influences. The *Washington Post* has called her songs by turns "tender, barbed, and spiritual." She has a new album, *To the Light*, her 7th. \$20. **Dec. 20: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime

local favorites who have been playing since 1969 and have appeared at numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have a new guitarist-mandolinist, Dan Roehrig, and they recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with a new album, *Still Delivering*. \$11 (\$10 members, students, seniors) at the door. **Dec. 21: Blackthorn.** This veteran Royal Oak quartet plays a wide range of Celtic music, from contemporary Irish songs and traditional songs of emigration to sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and haunting ancient airs. \$20. **Dec. 27 & 28: Mick Gavin's Crossroads Ceili.** Two evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance featuring **Mick Gavin**, a veteran Detroit Irish fiddler (and County Clare native), with guest performers fiddler James Kelly, pianist Barbara McGone, and 13-year-old Madison Heights Irish harpist Siobhan McKinney, a two-time All-Ireland Champion. \$20, (\$30 by reservation only includes dinner entrée at Conor O'Neill's before the show). 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 29: San and Emily.** Veteran folk singer-songwriter San Slomovits and his daughter, violinist Emily Slomovits, perform 2 sets, one featuring classical, folk, klezmer, and pop tunes, while the other includes songs from classic Hollywood movies and Broadway musicals. Special guests are youthful bassist Jacob Warren and Emmy-winning local composer-pianist pianist Brian Brill. \$20. **Dec. 30: Brother Josephus and the Love Revolution.** This large Brooklyn (NY) ensemble delves into New Orleans rhythms, old-school soul, classic rock styles, and exuberant gospel music. Even the *New Yorker* says they "bring a righteous message of love and rhythm." \$20.

Babs' Underground 213 S. Ashley 997-0800

This downtown lounge features occasional live music. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 6: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With the **Ron Brooks Trio**, a bebop-rooted mainstream jazz ensemble led by veteran local bassist Brooks. With pianist Pat Conley and drummer Jeff Shoup, and guest vocalist Ramona Collins, a veteran Toledo vocalist known for her soulful renditions of jazz and blues standards and obscurities. 5-7 p.m.

Bel-Mark Lanes 3530 Jackson 864-6095

The café inside this westside bowling alley features occasional live music. Karaoke, Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 29: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6-8 p.m.

The Blind Pig 208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local club features live music most Wed.-Sat. and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Cover, dancing. Advance tickets sold at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at blindpigmusic.com/calendar. **Dec. 4: "Next Up."** Showcase of area hip-hop artists with headliner **Tonle Arcon**, a Jackson-bred rapper whose music also draws on R&B, soul, and ambient music. Also rappers **Johnny IV**, **Bryson Rhodes**, **JayRico Santana**, **77 Hi Boy**, **CanVas**, **Alante Washere**, and DJ **Stymie**. \$8-\$10. **Dec. 6: "Rockmare Before Christmas."** With the St. Clair Shores indie folk-rock singer-songwriter **thefallenplague**, the local rock band **No-Nonsense**, and the Brighton rock quintet **V*A*S*E***, the metal band **Apocalypse**, the folk-rock quintet **Tink & the Lost Boys**, and the Trenton rock trio **Passing Thought**. \$10-\$12. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. **Dec. 7: "Golden Era Hip-Hop Party."** With DJs **Chill Will** and **Eli**. \$5 (free before 10 p.m.). **Dec. 14: Black Note Graffiti.** Local progressive metal and alt-rock quintet. Opener: the local hard-rock quintet **Stick Shift**, the suburban Detroit postpunk alt-rock quartet **Float Here Forever**, jazz-inflected pop-soul singer-songwriter **Dani Darling**, and **The Switchbacks**, a local hard-rocking country and blues quintet fronted by vocalist Janet Benson. The show is a Christmas costume party. \$10 (\$8 in costume). **Dec. 21: Trembling Earth.** Manchester-based blues-inflected folk-rock jam band. Opener: **Thunderbuck Ram**, an Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll trio, and **Scotty Karate**, a one-man postpunk honky-tonk rock 'n' roll band from Chelsea. \$7-\$12. **Dec. 27: Funkwagon.** Gospel-infused funk-rock by this Burlington (VT) band now based in Detroit. Opener: the Hamtramck self-styled "psycho-funk" quintet **The Scapes**, the Ypsilanti groove-oriented psychedelic rock band **Social Meteor**, and the suburban Detroit funk-based psych-jazz sextet **Funkmanship**. \$10. **Dec. 30: The Marsupials.** Detroit funk-rock quartet whose music is said to fall "somewhere between the searing heat of Jimi Hendrix and the psychedelic styling of Tame Impala." Opener: **TJ Zindle & the Powerlines**, a dynamic local rock 'n' roll band led by Ragbirds guitarist Zindle, and **Beantalk**, a local ensemble led by singer-songwriter Riley Damon Bean that plays post-hip-hop synth-pop dance music. \$8-\$11. **Dec. 31: Stormy Chromer.** Popular local progressive jam-rock quartet. Opener: the local jazz-inflected progressive funk-rock quartet **Chirp**, the local funk-rock jam quartet **Ma Baker**, and **Scüter**, a local dance band that blends live instrumentation with downtempo electronic beats. \$15-\$18.

The Blue Llama

314 S. Main 531-6188

This new jazz club/restaurant features live music or occasional jazz films Wed.-Sat. 7-10/11 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. (early show) & 9 p.m. (late show) for ticketed shows. No cover except for ticketed shows, no dancing. Advance tickets available at bluelamclub.com. **Dec. 4: Allen Dennard Quintet.** Mainstream jazz ensemble led by young local trumpeter Dennard, whose music incorporates elements of hip-hop, R&B, and funk. **Dec. 5: Adam Larson Band.** Ensemble led by this Kansas City-based tenor saxophonist known for what *JAZZIZ Magazine* calls his "well-crafted compositions, beautifully burnished tone and startling command of the instrument." **Dec. 6: Louis Hayes.** See review, p. 64. Ensemble led by the veteran Detroit-bred drummer Hayes, who tonight showcases material from his recent Blue Note recording *Serenade for Horace*, a tribute to Hayes' mentor, the legendary hard-bop composer-pianist Horace Silver. \$25-\$45. 7 & 9:30 p.m. **Dec. 11: DeSean Jones Quartet.** Ensemble led by this highly regarded young Detroit saxophonist, a member of the Detroit techno collective Underground Resistance. "Jones has an unselfconscious way of channeling his influences, which range from jazz to hip-hop, techno, rock and gospel, into something personal," says *Detroit Free Press* writer Mark Stryker. **Dec. 12: Geoffrey Keezer Trio.** Ensemble led by this veteran jazz pianist who got his start at age 18 as the last pianist to join Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers. With **Gillian Margot**, an acclaimed honey-toned vocalist known for her robust tone and interpretive savoir faire. \$15-\$35. 7 & 9:30 p.m. **Dec. 13: Randy Napoleon Quartet.** Jazz standards and originals by this quartet led by Ann Arbor native Napoleon, an MSU jazz guitar professor who's toured with Benny Green and Michael Bublé and been praised as "spectacular" by guitarist George Benson. **Dec. 14: Christian Sands Trio.** Ensemble led by this acclaimed jazz piano virtuoso who comes to with a new CD, *Facing Demons*, that *Jazz Thing Magazine* (Germany) describes as "a bit of everything ... a little hypnotic trance play with wind supplementation, a piece of pop reminiscence, a little Latin ensemble, a little sixties soul jazz, and hymnal gospel reference, also a bit of modernity in the style of the 1980s." \$35-\$55. 7 & 9:30 p.m. **Dec. 18: Aguanco.** Local Afro-Cuban jazz ensemble led by composer-percussionist Alberto Nacif. **Dec. 19: Klezmephonic.** Local klezmer quintet. With clarinetist Jennie Lavine, accordionist Will Cicola, violinist Henrik Karapetyan, guitarist Alex Belhaj, and bassist Dave Sharp. **Dec. 20: Trio Borealis.** NYC-based jazz trio whose repertoire includes originals, improvisations, and music by other composers. With pianist Michael Malis, bassist Ben Rolston, and drummer Stephen Boegehold. **Dec. 21: Andy Milne & Unison.** Jazz trio led by composer-pianist Milne, a former student of Oscar Peterson whose 2018 CD *The Seasons of Being* won the Juno for Jazz Album of the Year. With vocalist La Tanya Hill. \$15-\$35. 7 & 9:30 p.m. **Dec. 26: Paul Keller & Friends.** An eclectic mix of jazz styles by an ensemble led by veteran local bassist Keller. **Dec. 27: Gerard Gibbs & Organized Crime.** Funk-inflected jazz by this Detroit trio led by veteran Hammond B-3 organist Gibbs. With guitarist Perry Hughes and drummer Jabari Kersey. **Dec. 28: Curtis Taylor.** Straight-ahead jazz standards & originals by this quartet led by this trumpeter known for his lyrical, seductively melodic improvisational style. \$15-\$35. 7 & 9:30 p.m. **Dec. 31: "Pre New Year's Eve Party."** With **The Alvin Waddles Trio**, an ensemble led by celebrated Detroit stride pianist Waddles. \$20. 6-8 p.m. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Party."** With the **Chano Dominguez Flamenco Quartet**, an ensemble led by internationally renowned Spanish flamenco-jazz pianist Dominguez. Its repertoire centers on flamenco-oriented interpretations of the music of such classic Spanish composers as de Falla, Albeniz, Granados, & Mompou. \$125 (includes a 4-course dinner & midnight champagne toast). 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Canterbury House

721 E. Huron 665-0606

This U-M Episcopal student center features monthly jazz jams & occasional jazz ensembles, 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 19: Heartland Trio.** Jazz standards and originals, as well as a smattering of jazz-infused rock and folk, by this eclectic Bloomington (IN) ensemble led by bassist-vocalist Hannah Marks. With tenor saxophonist Barclay Moffitt and drummer Rocky Martin. 7-8 p.m.

Chelsea Alehouse Brewery

115 N. Main, Chelsea 475-2337

This recently relocated brewpub features live music Sun. 6-8 p.m. & Wed. 8-10 p.m. \$5 suggested donation, no dancing. All ages admitted. **Every Sun.: The Wes Fritzmeier Jazz Experience.** With the Chelsea ensemble of pianist Brian Brill, bassist Jed Fritzmeier, and drummer Wes Fritzmeier. Also, different guest musicians each week. **Every Wed.: Thunderwüde.** Bluegrass and related roots music by the Chelsea trio of guitarists Jason Dennie and Tommy Reifel and multi-instrumentalist Wes Fritzmeier.

The Circ Bar

210 S. First St. 277-3656

This pub in the renovated 2nd-floor space of the former Circus Bar features occasional live music. No cover, dancing. Also, DJ dance party Tues. & Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., & karaoke, Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

The Club Above

215 N. Main 686-4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music most Fri. & Sat., and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. or later (doors at 9 p.m.). Also, DJs occasional Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted. December schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30-10 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Dec. 5: Mia Green.** Young Detroit-area pop-folk singer-songwriter. **Dec. 6: TBA.** **Dec. 7: Isaac Ryder.** Neo-soul & funk band from Flint, led by Ryder, the stage name of South Haven singer-songwriter Joel Rydecki. **Dec. 12: Shaun Garth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Dec. 13: Kevin & the Glen Levens.** Local quartet whose eclectic repertoire ranges from traditional Irish music to rockabilly, bluegrass, novelty songs, and roots-rock originals. **Dec. 14: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues band. **Dec. 19: Adam Labeaux.** An eclectic mix of jazz, folk, soul, funk, and rock originals by this local singer-songwriter. **Dec. 20: Snack Time.** Classic rock covers by this ensemble of local parents with time on their hands. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 6: Blue Water Ramblers.** Grand Rapids folk duo that performs a wide range of traditional Great Lakes music, including lake shanties, lumberman ballads, union rallying cries, gospel music, and children's ditties. **Dec. 7: Billy Joe Hunt.** Small-town mid-Michigan singer-songwriter who writes songs about friends, family, lovers, life on the road and his old guitar. **Dec. 13: Open Mic.** All musicians invited. Hosted by singer-songwriter Phil McMillion. Signup begins at 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 14: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Dec. 20: Luti & Bobby.** Double bill. Luti Erbezniq is a Milford singer-songwriter and guitarist who sings in a voice that's been compared to Nick Drake and whose music blends American folk, rock, and pop forms with the rhythms and colorings of the music of his native Yugoslavia. Bobby Pennock is a Plymouth folk-rock singer-songwriter whose style draws its influences from Paul Simon and Harry Chapin, with a helping of the Beatles thrown in for zest. **Dec. 21: Bill Edwards.** Veteran local country singer-songwriter whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. His collaboration with former Ann Arborite Whit Hill, "What'd I Do," was featured in the HBO series *True Blood*. **Dec. 27: Annie & Rod Capps.** See Old Town. **Dec. 28: James Henes.** Local alternative rock singer-songwriter and guitarist.

Detroit Street Filling Station

300 Detroit 224-2161

Restaurant near Kerrytown with live music, Wed. & Sat. 6-9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Andrew Brown's Djangoophonique.** Vintage jazz in the style of gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt's 1930s Parisian swing by a local quartet led by guitarist Andrew Brown. With guitarist Erik McIntyre, clarinetist Tyler Rondo, and bassist Jorian Olk-Szost. **Dec. 7: Alex Anest.** Veteran local jazz guitarist. **Dec. 14: Jay Frydenlund.** Chirp singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. **Dec. 21: Douglas & Andrew Brown.** A mix of Americana and jazz by this local piano-and-guitar father-son duo. **Dec. 28: Flea Circus.** Duo of 2 veteran stars of the local music scene, boogie woogie & blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun and drummer Pete Siers. **Dec. 31: "New Orleans New Years Eve."** New Orleans-style jazz and swing by the **Detroit Street Stompers**, the ensemble of guitarist Andrew Brown, trumpeter Dave Kosmyrna, clarinetist Tyler Rindo, tubaist Joe Fee, and washboard player Vince Russo. 6-9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti 657-2337

This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music. Cover (usually a donation), dancing. **Dec. 19: "Krampus Costume Ball."** A costume dance party in the name of Krampus, a mythical anti-Santa who punishes bad children, with puppet performances and dancing to a DJ. Cash bar. \$5. 6 p.m.-midnight.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.-Thurs. 7-9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.-Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. Solo jazz pianists TBA occasionally substitute. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring drummer Robert Warren and a rotating roster of bassists and pianists.

The Elks Lodge

220 Sunset 761-7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock, Fri. & Sat. 6-10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Dec. 19: Hip-Hop Open Mic.** All hip-hop artists invited.

The Habitat Lounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs. 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9:15 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, a DJ Mon. 9 p.m.-midnight, and solo pianists Tues.-Sun. 8:30-10 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: Rob Crozier Trio.** Jazz originals and standards by this local ensemble led by bassist Rob Crozier. **Every Thurs. Cetan Clawson.** Monroe psychedelic blues-rock trio. **Dec. 3: Yellowhammer.** Area quartet led by trumpeter Ross Huff that plays jazz standards and funk. **Dec. 2: Omar Aragones.** Detroit electronic R&B and soul singer-songwriter. **Dec. 4: Bekah Greenman.** Livonia singer-songwriter whose repertoire also includes jazz standards and pop covers. **Dec. 6: Rhythm Kings.** Horn-fired jazz-rock dance band. **Dec. 7: Vavoom.** Versatile, high-energy dance rock by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Molly Delaney that was named 2019 Best Cover Band by *Hour Detroit*. **Dec. 9: Cat Canyon.** Veteran Detroit roots-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 10: Dave Menzo.** This local pop-rock singer-songwriter uses guitar, bass, synths, and other electronics to improvise instrumental tracks on the spot to sing with. **Dec. 11: Allen Dennard Project.** Dance band led by trumpeter Dennard, whose music is a mix of jazz, hip-hop, R&B, and funk. **Dec. 13 & 14: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Dec. 16: Omar Aragones.** See above. **Dec. 17: Yellowhammer.** See above. **Dec. 18: Bekah Greenman.** See above. **Dec. 20: 50 Amp Fuse.** Popular Detroit 70s and 80s classic rock band. **Dec. 21: FreeLance.** Local dance rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder to AC/DC and Guns N' Roses to Maroon 5 and Bruno Mars. **Dec. 23: Justin Wierenga.** Grand Rapids progressive rock singer-songwriter & multi-instrumentalist. **Dec. 27 & 28: Atomic Radio.** Detroit quartet that plays 70s-90s rock and pop favorites. **Dec. 30: Cat Canyon.** See above. **Dec. 31: FreeLance.** See above. Also, in the ballroom, *Persuasion*, a versatile Detroit R&B dance band.

Jim Brady's

209 S. Main 562-1954

This downtown restaurant features live music on the 1st Sunday of each month. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Jena Irene Asciutto.** Detroit pop singer-songwriter who cites Fiona Apple and Amy Winehouse as influences. 7:30-10 p.m.

The Last Word

301 W. Huron 585-5691

This downtown cocktail bar features live music, Thurs. 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: The Pherotones.** A wide range of jazz and jazzed-up popular music, from the 1920s to the present, by this all-star local quartet. With trumpeter Ross Huff, pianist Giancarlo Aversa, bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer Wes Fritzmeier.

LIVE

102 S. First St. 623-1443

This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.-early June), 6:30-9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Dec. 6: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Its repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Yardbirds, the Byrds, and Dylan to Barbara Lewis's "Hello Stranger," the Foundations' 1968 hit "Build Me Up Buttercup," The Kinks' "Dead End Street," and priceless obscurities like Love's "Alone Again Or." **Dec. 13: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. Bedard's 2015 live CD, *Further On*, is a collection of vintage and original blues that's highlighted by a show-stopping rendition of "Hawaiian Boogie." **Dec. 20: The Money Gods / The Seatbelts.** Double



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- **Homemade Lasagna Supper**
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December 15, 11:15am.
- **Woodland meditative space**
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Music at Nightspots

bill. The Money Gods is a northeast Michigan garage rock band, and the Seatbelts is a Detroit postpunk rock band that first formed in 1977. **Dec. 27: Hoodang.** Local ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist David Rossiter that plays wry, pungent alt-country whose musical roots range from English murder ballads and roadhouse blues to various modes of hardcore country and on its new CD *Blue Yodel*, a generous helping of insinuating country-rock.

Lo-Fi

220 S. Main (lower level) 369-6070

Casual bar beneath the Nightcap cocktail lounge features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 14: Ben Miller's Porcelain Hammer.** A lively, artful concoction of psychedelia, world music, and noise by this quartet led by veteran local singer-songwriter Miller, who plays a multiphonic baritone guitar. With percussionist Mike List, cellist Deanna Lee, and violinist Mike Khoury.

Mash

211 E. Washington 222-4095

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.-midnight and Thurs.-Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6-9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 4: Matt Gabriel.** Grand Rapids singer-songwriter whose music draws on an eclectic mix of genres, from pop and rock to folk and country. **Dec. 5: Dave Menzo.** See Habitat. **Dec. 6: Jason Dean.** Local postmodern pop singer-songwriter. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 6: Broken Fuzz.** Detroit-area rock quartet. **Dec. 7: Matt Boylan.** Covers and originals by this local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 7: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Dec. 11: David Roof.** Local blues-rock singer-guitarist. **Dec. 12: TBA.** **Dec. 13: Reeds 'n' Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and a guitarist TBA. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 13: Fangs & Twang.** Ypsilanti trio of Black Jake & the Carnies members that plays twangy, high-energy country rock, with songs about vampires, mummies, and other fantastical creatures. **Dec. 14: Mia Green.** See Conor O'Neill's. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 14: Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. **Dec. 18: Sugartips Acoustic.** Acoustic postpunk rock cover duo from suburban Detroit. **Dec. 19: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 20: Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 20: Pajamas.** Local pop-rock jam trio. **Dec. 21: Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 21: The Invasion.** See Zal Gaz. **Dec. 26: Twenty TwentyFour.** Toledo ensemble whose music is an eclectic, danceable mix of jazz, funk, R&B, soul, and rock. **Dec. 27: Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 27: Detroit's Own Soul Purpose.** An eclectic mix of genres from funk and blues-rock to hard country by this Westland quintet fronted by vocalist Carol Holmes. **Dec. 28: Twenty Twenty-Four Duo.** Duo from this Toledo band (see above). 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 28: The Scott Martin Band.** Canton alt-country-rock quartet led by singer-songwriter Martin. **Dec. 31: Dave Menzo Band.** Ensemble led by local pop-rock singer-songwriter Menzo.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty 994-5436

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing. Advance tickets (when available) are at necto.com/special-events. December schedule TBA.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty 662-9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Wed., & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 1: Annie & Rod Capps.** Annie Capps is a local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs and ballads that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. She's accompanied by her husband, singer-guitarist Rod Capps. **Dec. 4: Tim Haldeman Quintet.** Blues- and bebop-based jazz in a variety of styles and forms by this local ensemble led by saxophonist Haldeman. **Dec. 8: Bob Skon Trio.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this trio led by Skon, a local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Dec. 11: Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet.** World music-based jazz by this ensemble led by local bassist Sharp. **Dec. 15: Kat Steih.** Ethereal folk-rock by this local singer-songwriter. **Dec. 18: Ingrid Racine's Triangle Project.** Local jazz ensemble led by trumpeter Racine with an idiosyncratic

repertoire that ranges from Monk, Mingus, and Wayne Shorter to Hendrix, Bowie, and Joni Mitchell. With singer-guitarist Charlie Sutherland, bassist & synth player Josef Deas, and drummer Nick Collins. **Dec. 22: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this popular veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. **Dec. 29: Whit & Al Hill.** Nashville-based former Ann Arborite duo of multitalented performance artist Whit Hill (aka Whitley Setrakian), who writes richly imaginative country-folk originals that are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor, and her husband, Al Hill, a veteran R&B and blues keyboardist and guitarist known for his soulful vocal style.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard 662-8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music 1st & 4th Tues. and every Thurs. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Guitarist Network."** All guitarists invited for a weekly jam session and group lesson that concludes with a group performance. 7:30-9 p.m. **Dec. 3: "Songwriters Open Mic."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 10: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Jim Novak.

The Ravens Club

207 S. Main 214-0400

This downtown bar & grill features live music, Sun. 8-11 p.m., Mon. 8-10:30 p.m., & Tues. 6-8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: "Sol Jazz Sundays."** A house band—trumpeter Ingrid Racine, keyboardist Michael Malis, bassist Josef Deas, & drummer Jesse Kramer—is joined by different guests each week, including tenor saxophonist Tim Haldeman (Dec. 1), vocalist Sarah D'Angelo (Dec. 8), vocalist Heather Black (Dec. 15), baritone saxophonist Alex Harding (Dec. 22), and saxophonist Janelle Reichman (Dec. 29). **Every Mon.: Justin Walter's Poe Boys.** Traditional jazz stomps, shuffles, and 1920s-1930s show tunes by this local ensemble led by trumpeter & cornetist Justin Walter. With saxophonist-clarinetist Chris Tabaczynski, guitarist-banjoist Erik McIntyre, and saxophonist Chris Smith. **Every Tues. (except Dec. 24 & 31): Chris Buhalis.** Popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals, often with an acerbic topical edge, in a rich, warm voice. His latest CD, *Big Car Town*, is a collection of songs exploring and celebrating his working-class heritage.

Silvio's Organic Pizza

715 North University 214-6666

This campus-area restaurant features live music Sun. 6-8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 7-9 p.m., and occasional other nights. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 6: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. **Dec. 7: Bob Skon.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Dec. 13: Mary Ann Kirt.** Pop-folk and indie rock originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 20: Kim Gnagey.** Plymouth singer-songwriter whose music draws on folk, blues, and jazz idioms. **Dec. 21: Agenda 21.** Detroit activist reggae-rock trio, fronted by singer-songwriters Sherry Lutz and Leslie Glapa Panzica, featuring songs about radioactive leaks, Monsanto, the war racket, government lies, and more. **Dec. 28: Elizabeth Royce.** Rock, folk, blues, and country classics by this local torch singer and pianist, the lead singer of the local neo-girl group She-Bop.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. and occasional Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.-midnight. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mic.** Hosted by The Martindales, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Dec. 6: "First Friday."** With Charlie Dentel & the Strange Angels. Covers and originals by this Ypsilanti rock and soul band led by singer-songwriter Dentel. And *Mercury Salad*, a local acoustic soul-rock quartet. 9 p.m.-midnight.

Zal Gaz Grotto

2070 W. Stadium 663-1202

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sun. 5-8 p.m., Mon. 7-10 p.m., Tues. 5:30-8:30 p.m., & most Fri. & Sat. 8-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun. (except Dec. 15 & 29): "Swing Night."** Hot swing dance ensemble TBA. **Every Mon: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble founded by the late saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Dec. 7:**

Bodacious Bellydancers. Local bellydance troupe. 7-10 p.m. **Dec. 14: The Invasion.** British Invasion cover quartet from Redford led by singer-guitarist David Roof. **Dec. 15: "Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings Kids Show."** All ages show with dancing to this local 10-piece big band, led by tubaist Chris Smith, that specializes in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Kids under 12, free. 5-8 p.m. **Dec. 20: Brain Plasticity Ukulele Collective.** Led by veteran English singer-guitarist Mike Brooks, this collective is comprised of some 20 musicians of various ages and levels of expertise. Instruments include ukuleles, guitar, flute, percussion, trumpet, accordion, bass and melodica. 7-10 p.m. **Dec. 26: J.D. 8.** Local ensemble, led by tubaist Chris Smith, that plays compositions & arrangements by the late U-M music professor James Dapogny, a renowned early-jazz scholar-pianist. \$40 includes hors d'oeuvres. Reservations requested. 7-10 p.m. **Dec. 27: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexee*. **Dec. 28: Spark.** Local pop-rock quartet fronted by vocalist Robin Grant. With guitarist John Rasmussen, bassist Cy Clone, and drummer Jim Weyman. **Dec. 31: The Cellar Cats.** An eclectic mix of rock 'n' roll, Motown, blues, soul, R&B, progressive rock, and swing by this ensemble of veteran local musicians fronted by singer-flutist Patty O'Connor. With guitarist and harmonica player Myron Grant, guitarist Kip Godwin, keyboardist Mark Wight, bassist Terry Gordinier, drummer John Marion, and Charles Dayringer on congas, clarinet, and sax. 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Ziggy's

206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti

ziggyspsi.com

This downtown Ypsilanti coffeehouse-bar features live music most Fri.-Sat. and occasional other nights, 8-11 p.m. Cover (usually), dancing. **Dec. 6: False Figures.** This Ypsilanti lo-fi indie folk-rock trio celebrates the release of its new CD, *Flat to the World*. Openers: **Soviet Girls**, a Detroit indie pop-rock trio that features dreamy melodies and jangly & occasionally noisy guitars, and **Book Lovers**, a local pop-punk sextet fronted by singer-guitarist Autumn Wetli. **Dec. 7: Otto Parts.** Local classic punk-rock & psychobilly cover band. Openers: **Las Drogas**, an Ypsilanti band that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar psychobilly, and **Lawn Care**, a local rock 'n' roll quartet. 7-11:30 p.m. **Dec. 20: Truman.** Dynamic, atmospheric rock by this veteran Ypsilanti trio. Openers: the area punk-rock trio **Human Skull**, the Ypsilanti punk quartet **Normal Park**, and the new Detroit hardcore trio **Love Loss**. 8 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 21: Spark.** See Zal Gaz.

Zou Zou's Café

101 N. Main, Chelsea 433-4226

Newly renovated and expanded café features live music Thurs.-Sat. 8-10 p.m. and Tues. & Wed. 7-9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: "Groovy Tuesday."** Folk & blues Americana by the Chelsea trio of guitarists Mike Steele & Tommy Reifel and multi-instrumentalist Wes Fritzmeier. **Every Wed.: Open Mic.** All acoustic musicians invited. **Dec. 5: Rolie Tussing & Friends.** Ensemble led by Tussing, a nationally known local guitar virtuoso who specializes in prewar blues and jazz. **Dec. 6: Michael Katon & Todd Perkins.** Blues and blues-rock by the veteran local duo of singer-guitarist Katon and bassist Perkins. **Dec. 7: Jan Krist.** Detroit-area singer-songwriter known for her incisive, gritty songs about contemporary urban life. She is accompanied by her husband, percussionist Alan Finkbeiner. **Dec. 12: Pete Bullard & the Zou Animals.** Blues, swing, and rockabilly by an ensemble led by veteran local guitarist Bullard. **Dec. 13: Annie Capps, Judy Banker, & Friends.** In-the-round performances by these veteran local pop-folk singer-songwriters. **Dec. 14: Dirk Kroll Band.** Blues-based rock by a band led by this Pontiac singer-songwriter. Opener: **Matthew Davies**, a Milwaukee Americana folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 19: Blue Rays Trio.** See above. **Dec. 20: Joe Summers Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays an eclectic mix of standards, Latin jazz, and classic swing. **Dec. 21: Dave Boutette.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Bob Dylan to Paul Westerberg. He performs with his wife, singer Kristi Davis, a former Radio City Rockette. Tonight's holiday show features lots of sing-alongs. **Dec. 26: Rolie Tussing & Friends.** See above. **Dec. 27: Joanna Ransdell & Anthony Marchese.** Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter Ransdell, the frontwoman of the acoustic ensemble Joanna & the Jaywalkers, is accompanied by one of her band members, cellist Anthony Marchese. **Dec. 28: John Louis Good.** Jackson singer and multi-instrumentalist who plays folk and country music on guitar, harmonica, kazoo, jaw harp, and bass.

December Events

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

56 Nightspots

John Hinchey & James M. Manheim

Livingston Taylor

James M. Manheim

SENIORS CALENDAR

61 Events for Older Adults

Ella Bourland

FILMS

70 Film Screenings

Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

GALLERIES

73 Exhibit Openings

Ella Bourland



John Boonenberg leads the Boychoir, a local ensemble of boys ages 7-18, in their 33rd annual Christmas concert, Dec. 13 & 14.

JEFF LEONARD

KIDS CALENDAR

74 Events for kids 12 and under

Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

EVENTS REVIEWS

62 Arthur Sze

The Infinite Now

Keith Taylor

64 Louis Hayes

Serenading Horace Silver

Piotr Michalowski

69 Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Blossoming out

arwulf arwulf

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release.

- **By email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769-3175
- **By mail:** Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to AnnArborObserver.com).

★ Denotes a free event.

annarborobserver.com:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at AnnArborObserver.com. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on AnnArborObserver.com.

arbormail:

Get a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail_help.html.

Tickets for events highlighted in yellow are available at a2tix.com.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

I SUNDAY

"Winter Birding": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Guided walk led by Hudson Mills naturalist Kim Sherwin to find birds. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. 8-10 a.m., \$5, preregistration required. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★**Southeast Michigan Model Railroad Flea Market and Show: Rails on Wheels.** Display and sale of vintage and modern model trains and equipment on more than 100 tables. Also, large operating layouts, a Lego display, and a train kids can run. Food available. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$4 (kids age 11 & under, free with an adult; early bird admission at 8 a.m., \$10). 994-9872, 552-4581.

Holiday Artist Market: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Art & craft market featuring work by local artists and U-M students & staff. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647-7600.

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium. Every Thurs., Sat., Sun., & Dec. 27 & 30. Four different audiovisual planetarium shows. **The Sky Tonight**

(5:30 & 6:30 p.m. Thurs. through Dec. 19; 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30, & 2:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 22) is an exploration of the current night sky. **Molecularium** (10:30 a.m. Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 22) is an animated exploration of the atoms and molecules that comprise the universe. **Black Holes** (3:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 22) details new developments in the study of supermassive black holes, including the one at the center of our galaxy. **Sea Monsters** (10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. every hour on the half hour, Dec. 26-30) is an animated exploration of sea life 80 million years ago. Various times, U-M Natural History Museum, 1105 North University. \$8. 764-0478.

★**The Sunday Artisan Market.** Every Sun., except Dec. 29. Juried market featuring local handmade arts and crafts. Raffle every week for a handmade item from the featured artist of the month. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913-9622.

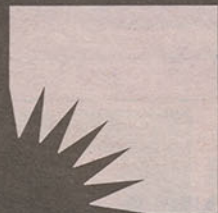
★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. hac-ultimateist@googlegroups.com, 846-9418.

Indie Art & Craft Fair

TINY EXPO

SAT. DEC 14
11AM-5:30PM

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY
343 S. Fifth Avenue
TINYEXPO.COM



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

AADL.ORG

DEC 2 **DEFINING DRUGS OF ABUSE**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 • 5:30-7:00PM
 Panel discussion of how the widespread availability of both alcohol and nicotine have negative impacts on these substances' understood health risks. *This event is in partnership with Scientists for Outreach on Addiction Research (SOAR) in the U-M Department of Pharmacology.*

DEC 2 **CHASING TWO RABBITS AT ONCE: EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN CAMEROON**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 • 7-8:30PM
 Ann Arbor native Sarah Strader describes 10 years of firsthand experience living and working with the Baka, an indigenous hunter-gatherer group in Cameroon in West Africa. The presentation will touch on child development, anthropology, and social justice. • **WESTGATE**

DEC 3 **HOW TO BECOME A US CITIZEN**
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 7-8:30PM
 Join speaker Frank Castria, Community Relations Officer with Detroit USCIS, for a talk on the process of becoming a US Citizen. • **MALLETTS CREEK**

DEC 7 **YOU WROTE A NOVEL... NOW WHAT?**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 1-2:30PM
 Calling all writers! Whether you participated in this year's National Novel Writing Month or you just love to write, join author Lillian Li for a presentation and discussion on the writing and revising process, getting published, and get your questions answered! *This program is associated with NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) and all aspiring authors are welcome! This event includes a signing with books for sale.* • **WESTGATE**

DEC 7 **AUTHOR EVENT | SHARON MCRILL ON DECLUTTERING AND DOWNSIZING**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 2-3:30PM
 Navigate the difficult pathways of estate sales, consignment dealers, picking the right real estate agent, and many other moving and downsizing questions. *This event includes a signing with books for sale.* • **MALLETTS CREEK**

DEC 8 **WAPUR HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS COMPETITION**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 12:00-6:00PM
 Watch robots designed and built by Ann Arbor high school students compete against each other in U-M's huge Coliseum! **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SPORTS COLISEUM (721 S 5TH AVE)**

DEC 8 **REAL TALK ON ISLAM**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 2-3:00PM
 Join Imam Shamshad Nasir, from Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, for a lecture and discussion on Islam, the True Teachings, and why there is so much confusion around Islam. **MALLETTS CREEK**

DEC 8 **CLASSICAL BELLS**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 3:30-4:30PM
 Classical Bells returns to the Library for their annual concert. Their eclectic programming, combined with sensitive musical interpretation, technical skill, informal choreography, and a dash of humor, gives them the well-deserved reputation of Michigan's Premier Handbell Ensemble. This event is very popular, so arrive early!!

DEC 9 **CHOCOLATE & CANDY MAKING 101 WITH KEEGAN RODGERS**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 7-8:30PM
 Keegan C. Rodgers leads this hands-on and lively workshop on how to make candy and cookies! In this class, students will learn how to make some basic candy & chocolate for the holiday season! *This event is in partnership with the Lakehouse Bakery in Chelsea.* • **PITTSFIELD**

DEC 9 **HOW INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE CAN STRENGTHEN YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 7-8:30PM
 Join panelists from Global Leadership Adventures, AAPs and Kalamazoo College for a discussion on incorporating an international experience into your college application and the benefits of these experiences. • **WESTGATE**

DEC 9 **EXPLORING THE MIND | 7 WAYS CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING SKILLS IMPACT LITERACY DEVELOPMENT**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 7-8:30PM
 Join Assistant Professor Nicole Gardner-Neblett of the University of Michigan for her presentation on the importance of storytelling in the development of literacy skills, and learn some strategies for supporting young children as storytellers. *This program is part of the "Exploring the Mind" series and is in partnership with The University of Michigan Department of Psychology.*

DEC 10 **ADDRESSING GROWING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY**
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 7-8:30PM
 Dmitriy Stolyarov explores economic inequality and a variety of policies that could address it. *This event is in partnership with the National Economic Education Delegation.*

DEC 11 **FRENCH MACARONS 101 WITH KEEGAN RODGERS**
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 • 7-8:30PM
 Keegan C. Rodgers leads this lively talk & demo on how to make macarons! The ingredients, instructions, and proper storage will all be covered in this class. Taste a macaron, too! *This event is in partnership with the Lakehouse Bakery of Chelsea.*

DEC 12 **OUT LOUD CHORUS PERFORMANCE**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 • 7-8:00PM
 Out Loud Chorus is a mixed chorus of 60+ voices from the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender community, yet open to all. Out Loud seeks to educate the general public about choral music and, through performances, to reduce bigotry and discrimination against our community. • **ALL AGES**

DEC 14 **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 11:00AM-5:30PM**
TINY EXPO INDIE ART & CRAFT FAIR
 Join us for Tiny Expo and shop 40+ artists and crafters selling handmade wares in a festive library space where you can shop local and handmade!

DEC 16 **DESSERTS BY DECADE: THE FABULOUS 1950S!**
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 • 7-8:30PM
 Learn about some hep recipes from the 1950s with Lakehouse owner/baker Keegan Rodgers and hear about national and local history from historian/writer Patti Smith. *This event is in partnership with The Lakehouse Bakery.* • **WESTGATE**

★**Lab Chats: U-M Natural History Museum.** Every Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 15. Short all-ages lecture-demos by museum educators in the museum atriums. "Paleo Prep Lab Chat" (11:30 a.m.) shows the tools and skills needed to prepare and cast fossils for research and display. "Biodiversity Lab Chat" (3:30 p.m.) shows how and why scientists process DNA samples from plants and animals. *Various times, Natural History Museum, 1105 North University. Free. 764-0478.*

Tour: Zingerman's Creamery. Dec. 1 & 22. Zingerman's Creamery staff lead a tour of the facility and show how Zingerman's cheeses and gelato are made. Tastings. Noon-1 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$10, preregistration required. 929-0500.

Gemini: The Ark. Annual family concert by this popular acoustic duo that has built a strong following among kids and adults throughout the Great Lakes area. Twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits offer sing-alongs, folk songs from around the world, and upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, performed on more than a dozen instruments. The twins are joined by their **Good Mischief Band**—pianist Brian Brill, percussionist Aron Kauffman, and San's daughter, fiddler Emily Rose Slomovits. A portion of the proceeds go to the neonatal intensive care unit at the U-M Mott Children's Hospital, where Emily was born. 1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (muto.umich.edu) and theark.org, and at the door. 761-1451.

★**Game Playtesting: Michigame Design Lab.** Sunday Dec. 1 & 15. All invited to try out new games from local board and card game designers and provide feedback. 1:30-6 p.m. Blom Meadworks, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 548-9729

★**"Reflections: An Ordinary Day": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of Inuit art, including mid-century to contemporary prints, drawings, and sculptures that portray daily life in the Arctic. 2-3 p.m., meet in the UMMA forum, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

"Rebecca Myers: Baroque Characters of Love": Kerrytown Concert House. This young mezzo-soprano, a Michigan native, performs Italian arias, including works by Handel, Vivaldi, and other Baroque composers. Piano accompanist is George Cullinan. 2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20-\$40 (students, \$10) in advance at a2tix.com. 769-2999.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. Every Fri.-Sun., Nov. 29-Dec. 29. A popular holiday tradition, director Carla Milarch's annual musical panto is based on the comedic TV puppet DJ Kat, a record-spinning, leather-jacketed cat. A panto is a British pantomime genre that blends children's stories with a bit of vaudeville sensibility to create raucous family entertainment. Candy is provided. Stars: Asia Marie Hicks, Alaina Kerr, and Mike Sandusky. 7:30 p.m. (Fri.-Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron. Tickets (if available) \$25 (kids 16 & under, \$10). Members (\$75 annual donation) receive priority access to all shows. 635-8450.

"The Secret Garden": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. Every Thurs.-Sun., Dec. 1-22. This local professional theater company performs Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman's 1989 musical adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's beloved children's novel set in Victorian England. Sent to live in the cheerless house of her reclusive, widowed uncle and his invalid son, an orphan girl discovers a hidden garden that reintroduces joy to her life and that of her relatives. The songs, with many lyrics drawn from the original text, have been described as "fetching" by the *New York Times*. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets \$32 (seniors, \$30; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$28) on Thurs.; \$36 (seniors, \$34; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$32) on Fri. & Sat. eve.; \$34 (seniors, \$32; youth & groups of 10 or more, \$30) for all matinees in advance at TheEncoreTheatre.org and at the door. \$15 student rush tickets (if available) an hour before showtime. 268-6200.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. Every Wed.-Sun. through Dec. 21. Michelle Mountain directs the world premiere of Livonia playwright David MacGregor's 2nd Sherlock Holmes play, which features the Victorian super sleuth solving a case for the playboy Prince of Wales on the eve of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Coincidentally, the master chef Auguste Escoffier needs the detective's help as well. Cast: Mark Colson, Paul Stroili, Sarab Kamoo, Caitlin Cavanaugh, Tom Whalen, and David Bendena. 8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$32 (Wed.), \$28 (Thurs.), \$42 (Fri. eve.), \$43 (weekend matinees), \$46 (Sat. eve.) in advance at PurpleRoseTheatre.org and by phone, and (if available) at the door. Discounts available for students, seniors, teachers, military personnel, and groups. 433-7673.

★**"Paper Crafts": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to make paper poinsettias and paper gift boxes. 3-4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327-4200.

EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
 ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE.
 NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

For information on these events and more, please visit aadl.org

seniors

Ann Arbor Senior Center (1320 Baldwin Ave., 794-6250). Activities for all ages. Closed Dec. 24-27 & 31. **Social Mah-Jongg** (\$2; members, free), Mon. noon-3 p.m. **Bridge**, ACBL non-sanctioned (Mon., except Dec. 23, 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$3; members, \$2) & sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs. noon, \$7; members, \$6). **Social Scrabble** (\$2; members, free), Tues. 10 a.m.-noon, with lunch available (11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. for \$5.50; age 60 & over, \$3). **"Board Game Fun"** (\$2; members, free), Wed., noon-3 p.m.

U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program (2401 Plymouth, 998-9353). Free weekly ac-

tivities (except as noted). Closed Dec. 24-31. **Bridge** (some experience necessary), Mon. & Fri. 12:30-4:30 p.m. **"Walking Group"** (canceled for inclement weather), Tues. 1:15 p.m. **Chess**, Wed. 1-4 p.m. **Mah-Jongg** Thurs. 10 a.m.-noon. **"Writing Group"** for attendees to read and discuss their poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences. Dec. 2, 1-3 p.m. **"Technology for Independence: Simple Devices & Services to Help with Daily Living Activities"** a talk by Area Agency on Aging representative Glen Ashlock, Dec. 11, 10-11:30 a.m. **Scrabble**, Dec. 17, 2-4 p.m.

2 MONDAY

Zumba: Jewish Community Center. Every Mon., Wed., & Fri. through Dec. 20. Local dance instructor Karen Silverman leads a session of this high intensity, low-impact aerobic dance workout. Wear gym shoes. 9-10 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. \$5. 971-0990.

Weekly Meeting: The U-M Club of Ann Arbor. Every Mon. All invited to talk sports with other enthusiasts, and listen to featured U-M sports coaches recap the season. Also, a Weber's catered lunch available (\$10.75; seniors, \$10.25). 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$5 for nonmembers, up to 2 weeks; free for members (\$60 annual membership dues). 239-3428.

"Civil Rights as Patient Experience: How Healthcare Organizations Handle Complaints": U-M Science, Technology & Society Program. Talk by U-M women's studies professor Anna Kirkland. 4-5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 763-2066.

"Defining Drugs of Abuse": Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion with U-M faculty TBA about the downside of alcohol and nicotine. 5:30-7 p.m., Downtown Multipurpose rm. Free. 327-4200.

"Ann Arbor Group Runs": Running Fit. Every Mon. & Sat. Runners of all abilities invited to join a 3-8 mile run along varying routes from different Running Fit locations. Also, a speed-training session (every Tues. 6:30 p.m., 5700 Jackson), and a light-jog training session for Running Fit's Holiday Hustle, see Dec. 14 (Thurs. through Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m., 5700 Jackson Rd.) Snacks. Snow or shine. 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), 123 E. Liberty & 8 a.m. (Sat.), 5700 Jackson Rd. Free. 769-5016 (Mon.), 929-9022 (Tues., Thurs. & Jackson Rd. Sat. run).

***Lifetree Café.** Dec. 2, 9, 16, 30. All invited to join conversations led by St. Paul Lutheran Church members. Each week begins with a video introduction. Snacks provided. Dec. 2: "Angels Among Us: Stories of Miraculous Encounters." Dec. 9: "Stuck in a Rut? Get Unstuck One Step at a Time." Dec. 16: "Conquering Conflict: Healthy Ways to Handle Disagreements." Dec. 30: "Why God? When Personal Tragedy Doesn't Make Sense." 7-8 p.m., 500 W. Liberty. Free. 665-7912.

***"Last Letters: The Prison Correspondence Between Helmuth James and Freya von Moltke, 1944-45": Literati Bookstore.** U-M German professor Johannes von Moltke and Labyrinth Books (Princeton, NJ) co-owner Dorothea von Moltke discuss their collection of letters sent between their grandparents, who were both involved in resistance groups in Nazi Germany. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

***"Sewing Lab": Ann Arbor District Library.** Dec. 2, 16, & 30. All invited to get basic sewing help with their unfinished projects or learn how to use the AADL sewing machines. Bring your own sewing machine, if you wish. On Dec. 2, local crafter Amber Adams-Fall shows how to make French seams, on Dec. 16, Adams-Fall demonstrates fabric bias, and on Dec. 30, Adams-Fall shows how to cut out a pattern. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

***"Chasing Two Rabbits at Once": Ann Arbor District Library.** Ann Arbor-raised Sarah Strader discusses her experience working on child development and social justice issues as the executive director of Chasing Two Rabbits, a nonprofit that provides educational opportunities to the Baka hunter-gatherers in Cameroon. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327-4200.

***Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$40 monthly dues for those who join). a2RecorderSociety.org

***Orchestra Concert: Huron High School.** This high school orchestra performs selections including Antonin Dvorak's *New World Symphony* and Georges Bizet's *Suite No. 1 from Carmen*. 7:30-9 p.m., HHS Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994-2040.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23. Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music by Susie Lorand & friends. All dances taught; beginners welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$5. 395-7782, 274-0773.

***"Winter Classics I": Northside Community Church.** Clarinetist Daniel Gilbert, pianist Kathryn Goodson, and U-M music department students TBA perform a program featuring Debussy's *Première Rhapsodie*, Thomas Adès' *Catch*, and Muszynski *Time Pieces*. 7:30 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free, donations welcome. 662-6351.

***Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of Music.** Dec. 2 & 3. Music student ensembles perform music for strings, woodwinds, brass, and piano. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baitz. Free. 615-3204.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Mon. Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. 8:30-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

3 TUESDAY

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session) through May 13. All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. 9:30-11:15 a.m. & 1:15-2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. \$25 for the year. 665-0105.

***"Overreach and Overreaction: The Crisis in U.S.-China Relations": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Talk by U-C San Diego 21st-Century China Center research professor Susan Shirk. Sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Noon-1 p.m., 110 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 764-6308.

***"From Coffee to Tourism: Grassroots Organizations and Returned Migrants Navigating Economic Shifts in Guatemala": U-M Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.** Talk by University of Massachusetts grad student Eric Sippert. Noon-1:30 p.m., 555 Weiser Hall, 500 Church St. Free. 763-0553.

***"Conversations on Europe: What's Left of the Yellow Vest Movement": U-M Center for European Studies.** Panel discussion on the French grassroots movement for economic justice with Princeton social science professors Anne-Claire Defossez and Didier Fassin. 4-5:30 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 764-3501.

***"The Navel of the Dream: Freud and/in Yiddish": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** Lecture by University of Toronto Arts and Jewish Culture professor Naomi Seidman. 4-5:30 p.m., Thayer Bldg. rm 2022, 202 S. Thayer St. Free. 763-9047.

***"Introduction to Linoleum Carving": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to carve an image onto a 3x4-inch linoleum block and use it to print on a coaster or card. Bring an idea or example of your intended imagery. No experience necessary. 5-8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

"Cheers to Michigan!": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Michigan Radio *Cheers* hosts Lester Graham and Tammy Coxen discuss their new book about the regional craft cocktail scene, *Cheers to Michigan: A Celebration of Cocktail Culture and Craft Distillers*. Also, tastings of a whisky sour, French 75, and tequila old-fashioned, paired with artisan cheeses. 5:30-7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. \$50, preregistration required. 663-3663.

"KnITTY Cats": Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center. Dec. 3, 10, & 17. All invited to work on knitting projects and hang with adoptable cats. A knitting expert is on hand. Coffee. 5:30 p.m., Tiny Lions, 5245 Jackson Rd. \$7 (\$24 per month). 661-3575.

***Arthur Sze: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** See review, p. 62. Reading by this acclaimed poet, the author of 10 books of poetry and a book of translations of Chinese poetry. Critic John Tricita describes Sze's poetry as the "intersection of Taoist contemplation, Zen rock gardens and postmodern experimentation." Signing. 5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium. Free. 764-6330.

***Tree Lighting Ceremony: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** All invited to help decorate the giant Christmas tree in downtown Saline. Cocoa, cookies, & music. 6 p.m., KeyBank, Michigan Ave. & N. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Free. 429-4494.

HOLIDAY SALE

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members get in early
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Arthur Sze

The Infinite Now

Between the time I write this and the time you read it, we will know whether or not Arthur Sze has won the National Book Award for his latest collection of poems, *Sight Lines*. That his book has appeared on this short list is another in a long list of recognitions that include a near-miss on a Pulitzer. He is a past chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. This makes Sze sound as if he's one of the Grand Old Men of the poetry establishment. But once you know his poems, that impression seems entirely wrong.

Almost twenty years ago, Sze published *The Silk Dragon*, a very personal selection of translations from the Chinese. In eighty pages he skipped through 2,000 years of Chinese poetry, but his purpose was not to give a survey of Chinese verse. It was to find inspiration, a way back to his own practice, in the example of the careful and precise observations of poetic forebears. His poems, like the ancient Chinese poems he has so meticulously translated, are built on what seems an almost spiritual belief in the power of precise observation of the things we see around us.

In Sze's own work, however, those things are shaped by an imagination that puts them in unexpected relationships with other objects in the world. In an early poem in *Sight Lines*, the wildfires that are devastating the western states are set next to a woman making delicate confectionaries or a water drop that "hangs at the tip of a fern." At the end he allows himself to go from the smallest moment to an apocalypse in just a few lines:

In the West, wildfires scar each summer—
water beads on beer cans at a lunch counter—
you do want to see exploding propane tanks;
you try to root in the world, but events sizzle

along razor wire, along a snapping end of a power line.

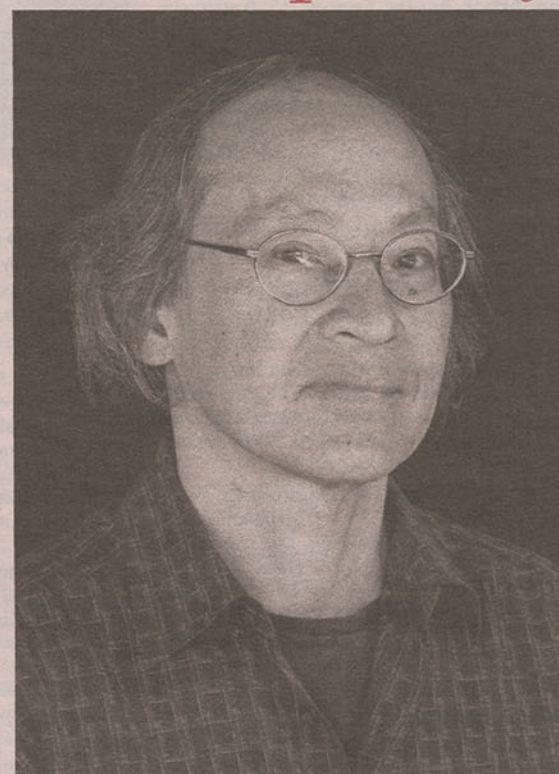
The "sight lines" of the title are presented at several points throughout the book. They appear as simple fragments running down a page, at first seemingly unconnected. As we go back to the moments in these fragments, we realize that there is an imaginative jump between them. In the title poem, a collection of such fragments—including images of nuclear explosions, horses, and walks in the desert—ends:

I'm walking on silt, glimpsing horses in the field—
fielding the shapes of our bodies in white sand—
though parallel lines touch in the infinite, the infinite is here—

Each line grows out of those that came before (for instance, "field" in one line becomes a verb in the next), until at the very end the poet brings the infinite into this very moment.

Arthur Sze reads his poems in the U-M Museum of Art on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

—Keith Taylor



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Ann Arbor, Michigan

★"Holiday Light Bracelets": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make a festive illuminated bracelet. Basic experience with round-nose pliers and beading suggested. Materials provided. 6-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327-4200.

★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap tips. 6-9 p.m., call for location. \$2 monthly dues. MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-StitchNBitch, 945-3035.

★"Graduate Student Capstone Presentations": U-M World Performance Studies. Performances by WPC grad students Sherry Lin, Jean Carlo, and Evan Haywood. 6-8:30 p.m., East Quad Keene Theater, 701 East University. Free. 936-2777.

★"How to Become a U.S. Citizen": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Detroit office community relations officer Frank Castria. 6-8:30 p.m., AADL Mallets Creek. Free. 327-4200.

★"Death Café": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a frank conversation about death, hosted by Interfaith Center Minister Annie Kopko. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 327-0270.

English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running

shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. Dec. 3: Arlene Kindel & Julie Esch lead, music by the Time Travelers. Dec. 10: Louise Siddons (OK) leads, music by Debbie Jackson, Brad Battey, and Steve Schneider. Dec. 17: Winter Solstice Party. Ray Bantle & Drake Meadow lead, music by Childgrove. Festive attire encouraged; bring a treat to share. 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). \$8 (students, \$4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665-7704.

★"The Body Papers, a Memoir": Literati Bookstore. Tufts University English lecturer Grace Talsan reads from her new memoir about her life as a Filipino immigrant and her experiences with childhood abuse, depression, cancer, and racism. Signing. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines. Every Tues. Women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. 7-9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$26 monthly dues for those who join). 612-7580.

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Every Tues. Male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance, 796-7467. Eastside Weekly Euchre Tournament. Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Open to ages 18 & over. No partner needed. Cash

prizes for 1st-3rd places. 7 p.m., *Banfield's Bar & Grill*, 3140 Packard. \$5. Kari.Thurman@gmail.com

★**"Taste & Tell: Abrahamic Culinary Worlds":** U-M Anthropology Department. Chef and writer Holden Wilson discusses overlapping recipes from premodern Jewish, Christian, and Islamic culinary traditions. Tastings. 7-9 p.m., *Rackham East Conference Rm.*, 915 E. Washington. Free. 764-7274.

★**"Music for Meditation":** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. The Forest Winds woodwind quintet, an ensemble from the U-M Life Sciences Orchestra, performs Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Winds and Rossini's Wind Quartet no. 6 in F Major. 7:15 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their digital images and prints on this month's assignment, "Trains." 7:30 p.m., *Forsythe Middle School media center*, 1655 Newport. Free. 327-4781.

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *Los ingravidos*, Valeria Luiselli's novel about an expatriate Mexican novelist who emotionally bonds with a long-dead poet. 7:30 p.m., *Nicola's, Westgate shopping center*. Free. 662-0600.

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. Dec. 3 & 17. Open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Ten storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3-5 minute story on "Traditions" (Dec. 3) and "Names" (Dec. 17)—judged by a 3-person team recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Seating limited; arrive early. 7:30-9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), *Greyline*, 100 N. Ashley. General admission tickets \$17.50 in advance at themoth.org beginning a week before each event, or \$15 (if available) at the door. 764-5118.

★**"Eurythmy: A Jewel of the Waldorf Curriculum":** Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Talk by Rudolf Steiner High School teacher Andréa Paz. 7:30 p.m., *Rudolf Steiner House*, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 927-3696.

★**German Conversation.** Every Tues. & Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with either or both of 2 long-running groups, the German Speakers Round Table (Tues.) and the Stammtisch (Thurs.). 8-10 p.m., *Grizzly Peak Brewing Company*, 120 W. Washington. Free. 453-2394 (Tues.) & 678-1017 (Thurs.).

★**Arts Chorale: U-M School of Music.** Shohei Kobayashi conducts this U-M choral ensemble of nonmusic majors in a program including Schubert's Mass in G, Kristin Kuster's "Home," Andrew Balfour's "Ambe," Daniel Elder's "Ballade to the Moon," Michael Alfer's arrangement of "The Water Is Wide," and C.A. Pinto Fonseca's "Muie Rendra." 8 p.m., *U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium*, 1226 Murfin. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Season of Light":** EMU Planetarium. Dec. 3 & 10. This animated historical audiovisual show explores many of the world's holiday customs that involve light displays. Suitable for all ages. 8 p.m. sharp, *EMU Mark Jefferson Science Complex, Circle Dr. off Oakwood, Ypsilanti*. Tickets \$5. 487-2282.

Opera on Tap. Local singers perform arias and art songs that address the theme "Ding Dong, Divas Singing High." 8:30-10 p.m. (seating begins at 6:30 p.m.), *Sidetrack Bar & Grill*, 56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free (buy your own food & drink), donations accepted. Reservations required (call between 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.). 483-5230.

4 WEDNESDAY

★**"Rockin' for the Hungry":** Food Gatherers. Dec. 4-8. Live broadcasts by radio station 107one DJs. Cash and nonperishable food donations requested. Dec. 3 (6-10 a.m.) kickoff at Traver Village Kroger (2641 Plymouth). 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Dec. 8), *Kroger*, 400 S. Maple. Free admission. 761-2796.

★**"The Legacy of Motown Music":** Ann Arbor City Club Lunch and Learn. Talk by U-M music school associate dean Mark Clague. Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., *City Club*, 1830 Washtenaw. \$30 (members, \$25). Reservations required by Nov. 29. 662-3279, ext. 1.

★**"Stalin's Master Narrative: The General Secretary's Rewriting of Party History in the 1938 Short Course":** U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies Noon Lecture. Talk by University of Richmond history professor David Brandenberger. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. Noon-1:20 p.m., *1010 Weiser Hall*, 500 Church. Free. 764-0351.

★**"Change the Subject":** U-M Clark Library. Screening of this documentary about the ways in which politics can influence library catalogs. Discussion follows. Coffee & desserts; bring a lunch, if you like. Noon-2 p.m., *Clark Library, Hatcher Grad Library 2nd fl.*, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-0400.

★**Brown Bag Organ Recital:** U-M School of Music. Performance by U-M music student Sam Ronning. Program TBA. 12:05 p.m., *U-M School of Public Health Community Rm.*, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Akhnaten":** Fathom Events. Rebroadcast of the Metropolitan Opera production of Philip Glass's 1983 opera about the life of the Egyptian pharaoh Akhnaten (Amenhotep IV), with the libretto drawn partly from ancient Egyptian sources and sung in the original language. Phelim McDermott directs this impressive and dreamlike production that includes acrobats and jugglers in routines inspired by hieroglyphics. With countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo and mezzo-soprano J'Nai Bridges. Egyptian & other languages, subtitles. 1 & 6:30 p.m., *Quality 16* (3686 Jackson), & *Ann Arbor 20* (4100 Carpenter). Tickets \$16-\$25 in advance at FathomEvents.com/Events and at the door. 623-7469 (Quality 16), 973-8424 (Ann Arbor 20).

★**"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 p.m.

★**Letterpress Lab:** Ann Arbor District Library. Every Wed., except Dec. 25. All invited to learn the basics of letterpress printing using vintage handset type. 6-8:30 p.m., *AADL Downtown Secret Lab*. Free. 327-4200.

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** Every Wed., except Dec. 25. All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 6:30-8:30 p.m. or so, *Kerrytown Sweetwaters*. Free. Facebook.com/Groups/KTCrafters, 926-8863.

★**"The Carnivore Way: Coexisting with and Conserving North American Predators":** Literati Bookstore Eco Book Club. All invited to join a discussion, led by local poet Alison Swan, of ecologist Cristina Eisenberg's 2014 book. 7 p.m., *Literati Coffee (upstairs)*, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wed. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. 7-11 p.m., *Walden Hills clubhouse*, 2114 Pauline east of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) \$6 per person. 623-8050.

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Readings by Detroit-based poets George & Chris Tysh, who are also husband & wife. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mike. 7-9 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom*, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**"Mindfulness and Meditation for Adults":** Ann Arbor District Library. Meditation guided by local meditation leader Amy Tarrant. Bring a blanket or pillow, if you like. 7-8:30 p.m., *AADL Pittsfield*. Free. 327-4200.

★**"Color Away":** Sweetwaters Plymouth Green. Every Wed., except Dec. 25. All adults invited to color. Supplies provided. 7-9 p.m., *Sweetwaters*, 3393 Plymouth Rd. Free. 369-4568.

Dave Keeney & Sophia Hanifi and Chris Buhalis: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Double bill. Guitarist Keeney and vocalist Hanifi are a local husband-and-wife folk-rock duo who perform, usually separately, in some of Ann Arbor's best bands. Buhalis is a popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals, often with an acerbic topical edge, in a rich, warm voice. His latest CD, *Big Car Town*, is a collection of songs exploring and celebrating his working-class heritage. He is accompanied tonight by Keeney. 7-9 p.m., *Chelsea Depot*, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. \$15 suggested donation. Info.: call Annie Capps at 330-5226.

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group:** Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of Michael Rosenthal's 2017 book *Barney: Grove Press and Barney Rosset, America's Maverick Publisher and His Battle Against Censorship*. 7:30-9 p.m., *Motte & Bailey*, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**Visitors Night:** Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30-10 p.m., *Michigan Central depot*, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. Every Wed., except Dec. 25. Dance instructors Cheryl Feit and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. \$5. 971-0990.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 4 & 11. Performances by 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 7:30 p.m., *212 S. Fourth Ave.* \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

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Drummer Louis Hayes Serenading Horace Silver

When I was a teenager in Poland ages ago, those of us who loved modern jazz listened intensely to the new sounds of hard bop that were broadcast on Voice of America by shortwave radio. The hottest band at the time was the Horace Silver Quintet. With interest in the founders of modern jazz floundering, pianist Silver offered something different: a streamlined down-home version of bop that spoke directly to people who enjoyed rhythm and blues, gospel, and other forms of African American popular music.

Silver's compositions were catchy and yet structurally sophisticated and used shifting rhythms for variety. At a time when the prevailing jazz piano style was based on long-running, harmonically complex lines, Silver combined modern harmonies with bluesy riffs, punctuated by jabbing two- or three-note left-hand chords, often in a call-and-response manner that harkened back to folk and gospel music. His young horn players provided exciting, dramatic solos; one of them, trumpeter Louis Smith, left after a brief stay to dedicate himself to music education, much to the advantage of Ann Arbor, where he eventually settled and trained generations of jazz musicians in city schools.

The members of the front line came and went. In August 1956, on the recommendation of fellow Detroiters Doug Watkins and

Donald Byrd, Silver sent for nineteen-year-old Louis Hayes to join the band. Hayes had been playing in Yusef Lateef's group, the premier modern jazz band in the Motor City; just a few months later, he found himself in New Jersey in the studio for the first time, taking part in the debut recording of Silver's new quintet. Watkins was eventually replaced by another Detroit—bassist Gene Taylor—and for three years Silver's tight rhythm section pushed the band, providing a secure foundation for the musical identity of the quintet.

Hayes' style was just right for the group; he could drive the rhythms hard without overwhelming others and had a strong melodic sense and a rich percussion vocabulary. Hayes has always created strong bonds with bassists. In Silver's group he and Taylor divided the maintenance of the pulse between them, so that the drums became an equal compositional component and not just a keeper of the beat; indeed, Hayes often likes to float above it without ever losing the necessary propulsion.

After leaving Silver in 1959, Hayes played with some of the best groups in jazz, then moved on to lead his own bands. Having paid tribute to another old boss, Cannonball Adderley, he is now touring in support of his new CD, *Serenade for Horace*, on which he revisits the music that propelled his international career. He brings his group to the Blue Llama on December 6 and 7.

—Piotr Michalowski

★**Poetry Salon: One Pause Poetry.** Every Wed. Members, and interested nonmembers, read and discuss poems on various themes. Followed by collaborative writing games and exercises. Snacks & socializing. 8–10 p.m., Argus Farm Stop greenhouse, 325 W. Liberty. \$5 suggested donation. OnePausePoetry.org, 707-1284.

★**Campus Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Will Wood directs this student ensemble and the Michigan Youth Jazz Orchestra. Program TBA. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Juke Box Jungle":** Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Wed. Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. 9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$3 team fee. 665-2968.

★**Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor.** Dec. 4, 7, 11, & 18. Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're flying around the room. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. Note: Dec. 7 is a holiday dance. 9–11 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. (Wed.) & Concourse Hall (Dec. 7), 4531 Concourse Dr. \$5 (students, \$3; \$1 discount for members; free for those who attend the lesson). SwingAnnArbor.com/calendar, 945-8428.

5 THURSDAY

★**"Futurity and the Transhuman in Millennial Japan: The Case of Picturebooks":** U-M Center for Japanese Studies. Talk by Indiana University professor of religious studies Heather Blair. Noon–1:30 p.m., 110 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 764-6307.

★**Gifts of Art Concert Series: U-M Hospitals.** Dec. 5, 12, & 19. Performances by area musicians. Dec. 5: Seasonal works by the Counterpoint quintet. Dec. 12: 19th-century holiday music by the Dodworth Duo. Dec. 19: Traditional klezmer music by Klezmer R&D. Noon–1 p.m., U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center. Free. 936-2787.

★**"Translating from Yiddish: New Approaches in Theory and Practice":** U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Talk by Frankel Institute fellows Anita Norich, Julian Levinson, and Yaakov Herskovitz. 1–2:30 p.m., 1022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763-9047.

★**"Composition Class Showing":** U-M Dance Department. U-M 1st & 2nd year dance majors perform their original choreography. 2 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763-5460.

★**"The Pen and a Sea of Pearls: Decolonizing Contemporary Historical Storytelling":** U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Talk by University of London gender studies professor Samia Khatun. 4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-4059.

★**Holiday Open House: U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** With live music by a classical quartet. All galleries open; refreshments. 4–6 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free, preregistration required by phone or at DawnLynn@umich.edu. 763-8639.

★**Board Game Night: The Loaded Die.** Dec. 5 & 12. All invited to play popular board games (list available at theloadeddie.com). "Board Game Guru" on hand to answer questions. Raffle. 5–9 p.m., Blom Meadow, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, buy your own food & drink. 548-9729.

★**"Arthur Sze: In Conversation":** U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. U-M creative writing professor Khaled Mattawa interviews this visiting poet (see 3 Thursday listing). Preceded at 3 p.m. by a roundtable Q&A (1176 Angell Hall). 5:30–7 p.m., UMMA Apse. Free. 764-6330.

★**Goat Cheese Tasting: Zingerman's Creamery.** Staffers host a tasting of a range of goat cheeses, from Zingerman's house-made to other artisan specialties. Bread and additional accompaniments. 6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$40, preregistration required. 929-0500.

★**"Kingdom Forgotten":** Laurie Lounsbury. Local writer Lounsbury—best known these days as a vocalist in the neo-girl group She-Bop—discusses her new historical novel about James Strang, the early 19th-century self-proclaimed prophet and king of Beaver Island (MI). Signing. 6:30–8 p.m., Zal Gaz Grotto. Free. 709-7374.

★**Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** All invited to bring rocks, minerals, or jewelry to show off. Refreshments. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. 7th St. Free. 665-5574.

★**"Gingerbread":** Literati Bookstore Feminist Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Helen Oyeyemi's fairy tale inspired novel about a woman who believes she is from a mysterious far-off land. 7 p.m., Literati Coffee (upstairs), 124 E. Washington. Free. 585-5567.

★**Nicole New and Cliff Monear: Jewish Community Center Book & Arts Fair.** An eclectic mix of jazz

with pop and bluegrass flavors by the duo of New, a Detroit vocalist known for her rich tone and rhythmic phrasing, and keyboardist Monear. 7–9 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. \$12 (members, \$10), preregistration recommended at Book.jccAnnArbor.org, 971-0990.

★**"Monuments and Public Art":** U-M Center for World Performance Studies. Paul M. Farber, co-founder of Philadelphia-based public art initiative Monument Lab, leads a conversation with U-M faculty and staff about public art. 7–8:30 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764-0400.

★**Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. 7:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. Facebook.com/DetroitIrishMA

★**Christmas Dance: Ann Arbor Ski Club.** With live music by local pop-rock cover band Spark. Food and drink included in price of admission. 7:30–10:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. \$10 (members, \$5), or bring a new unwrapped gift for a child. A2skiclub.org

★**"The Grapes of Wrath":** U-M Theatre Department. Dec. 5–8. U-M theater professor Gillian Eaton directs her students in Frank Galati's Tony-winning 1990 adaptation of John Steinbeck's classic novel about the crushing inequities of the American experience endured by Oklahoma dust bowl refugees seeking new fortunes in the lush, fruitful fields of California. 7:30 (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets \$24–\$30 (students, \$13) in advance at tickets.smd.umich.edu, the Michigan League Ticket Office, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538.

★**"A New Brain":** U-M Musical Theatre Department. Dec. 5–8. U-M musical theater professor Mark Madama directs his students in William Finn and James Lapine's energetic, sardonic 1988 off-Broadway musical comedy about an aspiring composer with writer's block who is stricken by a brain disorder. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), U-M Walgreen Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin. Tickets \$20 (student, \$13), in advance at tickets.smd.umich.edu, the Michigan League Ticket Office, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538.

★**"A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol":** Saline Area Players. Dec. 5–8. Barbara Day directs local actors in Flip Kobler & Cindy Marcus's twist on the Dickens classic. In this version, Scrooge is the Big Bad Wolf, 2 of the Cratchit children are Hansel and Gretel, the Ghost of Christmas Future is the Queen of Hearts, and Mother Goose narrates. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs. & Fri.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), The 5th Corner, 211 Willis Rd., Saline. \$6 in advance & at the door. SalineAreaPlayers.org. 755-6983.

★**Shadow League Show: Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** Every Thurs., except Dec. 26. Improv by Finance Camp and other up-and-coming local troupes. 7:30 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$8. PointlessBrew.com, (989) 455-4484.

★**Moody McCarthy: NYC Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Dec. 5–7. Veteran NYC observational humorist known for his playful take on everything from the allure of women with raspy voices to the joys of crossing time zones. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance before 5 p.m. the night of the show; \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

★**"Vital Eyes":** U-M Dance Department BFA Senior Concert. Dec. 5–7. New solo and group works choreographed by U-M dance seniors Emma Lambert, Kaitlyn Soloway, Matthew Standerski, & Florence Woo. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University. Tickets \$7 (cash only), at the door only. 763-5460.

★**"Yeomen of the Guard":** U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Dec. 5–8. David Andrews directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert and Sullivan's only tragicomedy. Tudor-era war hero Colonel Fairfax is accused of sorcery by a greedy relative who stands to inherit a fortune if the colonel dies a bachelor. But on execution day, Fairfax asks a friend to find him a wife—any wife—so that he can foil the plot. Featuring Austin DuBois, Megan Laine-Yacobozzi, and Makoto Takata, with music direction by Ezra Donner. 8 p.m. (Dec. 5–7) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 7 & 8), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, Michigan League. Tickets \$12–\$30 (discounts for seniors & students) in advance at umGass.BrownPaperTickets.com

★**"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

6 FRIDAY

★**"Midnight Madness":** Downtown Home & Garden. All invited for a petting zoo with livestock including goats, alpaca, and sheep. Also, a performance by a musical guest TBA (8–10 p.m.), and chestnuts roasting in the Christmas tree lot. 7:30 a.m.–midnight, Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662-8122.

★**Annual Holiday Sale: Kiwanis Center.** Every Fri. & Sat. through Dec. 21. Sale of used seasonal gifts and decorations, sporting goods, kitchen items, collectables, books, jewelry, office supplies, furniture, and more. Also, 2-day Toy Sale (Dec. 6 & 7). 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Kiwanis Center West, 102 N. Staebler. Free admission. 665-0450.

★**U-M Clements Library Tour.** Dec. 6 & 20. Docents give a behind-the-scenes look at the historic

Clements building and collections. 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Clements, 909 South University. Free, preregistration requested at Clements.umich.edu. 764-2347.

★**"Lunch & Learn":** Temple Beth Emeth. Dec. 6 & 20. TBE rabbi Josh Winston leads informal discussions on religion. Bring a bag lunch, if you wish. Noon, TBE Adult Lounge, 2309 Packard. Free. 665-4744.

★**"The Closet and the Cul-de-Sac: The Politics of Sexual Privacy in Northern California":** Institute for Research on Women & Gender. Talk by Ohio State University history professor Clayton Howard. Noon–1:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★**"Midday Morsel Drop-In Tour":** U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. 30-minute docent-led tour of Kelsey highlights. 12:30 p.m., meet at the Maynard St. entrance. Free. 764-9304.

★**"11th Annual KindleFest":** Kerrytown District Association. Holiday festival and outdoor market featuring local artisans and farmers. Kids activities (4–6 p.m.) include crafts and Santa's arrival at 5 p.m. Traditional German food, mulled wine, s'mores, and other treats. Tonight is also **Midnight Madness**, with Kerrytown businesses open late with holiday bargains. 4–10 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 662-5008.

★**Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt: U-M School of Music.** Performance by this world-renowned German cellist. Program TBA. 5:30 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Aud., 1226 Murfin Ave. Free. 615-3204.

"Festive Fridays": The Creature Conservancy. Dec. 6, 13, & 20. Conservancy staffers introduce Sven the reindeer on the indoor stage. Guests invited to view other animals on display, including alligators, a cougar, and porcupines. Includes cookies and hot cocoa. 6-8 p.m., *Creature Conservancy*, 4950 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$15 (kids age 2 & under, free) plus a donation towards animal care (e.g., grain-free cat and dog food, pet-safe squeaky toys, canned tuna, paper towels, & macaw toys, etc.); preregistration required. 929-9324.

***Living Nativity: Bethlehem United Church of Christ.** Living nativity with Christmas story performances, featuring a live camel, donkey, sheep, and goats. Hot chocolate, pretzels, & caroling. 6-8:30 p.m. (performances, 6 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:15 p.m.), Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. 4th Ave. Free. 665-6149.

"Midnight Madness Holiday Kickoff Party": Blom Meadworks. Live music by local indie pop-folk singer-songwriter Frankie. Coffee & desserts from Milk + Honey, hot mulled mead, and DIY Screenprinting of a tote or card with the Ann Arbor Art Center available for purchase. 6-10 p.m., Blom, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free admission. Facebook.com/DrinkBlom

***33rd Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** Dec. 6-8. Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Gingerbread house displays in shop windows, and luminarias along Main St. in the evening. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores, and a show by Ballet Chelsea (See Dec. 7). **Fri.: Tree lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival** (6-6:30 p.m., Pierce Park), **Santa's workshop** with storytelling and children's crafts (6:30-8:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle), **cookie decorating** (6:30-8:30 p.m., Chelsea ATA Martial Arts), **make ornaments** with materials provided (6:30-8:30 p.m., Ink Frenzy), **storytime with Santa's helpers** (6:30-8:30 p.m., Chelsea Farmers Supply, 122 Jackson), a **Live Nativity Scene** (7 & 7:30 p.m., Palmer Commons), and more. **Sat.: Free pancake breakfast with Santa** (8:30-10:30 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center). **"Material Girls Christmas Bazaar"** for kids age 3 through 6th grade and a parent's corner & bake sale (10 a.m.-3 p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church. Preregistration required at ChelseaFestivals.com). Quilt display, craft and bake sale, silent auction, and free quilt giveaway at the **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Annual Quilt Show & Sale** (10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Barnabas, 20500 W. Old US-12). **All the Trimmings Holiday Art Show** with an array of works by local artisans (10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old US-12 at Manchester Rd.). **Gingerbread House decorating** for families (11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m., First Congregational Church; space limited; preregistration required by calling 475-1844). **Holiday Homemade Gift workshop** for teens & tweens (1:30-3 p.m., Chelsea District Library). **Docent-led Historic Homes Tour** (1-4 p.m., starts at Chelsea Area Historical Museum, 128 Jackson; \$20 online at ChelseaHistory.org). **Holiday parade** (6 p.m., along Main St.) featuring dozens of lighted floats and vehicles, marching bands, Santa, and more. **Sun.: Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church) by the Chelsea Chamber Players, the First Methodist Chancel choir, and members of the Chelsea High School orchestra, Co.C choir, and Bella Voce/Troubadours. The program includes works by American composer Eric Whitacre, Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo, Dutch composer Maarten Spuijt, and Benjamin Britten. 6-8:30 p.m. (Fri.), 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. (Sat.), & noon-7 p.m. (Sun.), downtown Chelsea. Free (except as noted). 475-1145.

"24th Annual Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. Dec. 6-8. The nation's largest synchronized skating competition, featuring over 200 teams of all levels from across the U.S. 6-8 p.m. (Fri.), 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. (Sat.), & 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. 1-day pass: \$10 (students & seniors, \$8). **Weekend pass: \$25 (students & seniors, \$20).** 213-6768.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Iowa. The U-M also plays this month vs. Oregon (Dec. 14, noon), Presbyterian College (Dec. 21, noon), and UMass Lowell (Dec. 29, 2 p.m.). 6:30 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets TBA at mGoBlue.com/tickets. 764-0247.

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, challah and wine rituals, and a Yahrzeit observance to remember loved ones. Children welcome. 6:30-9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Dinner tickets \$10 (family, \$25), and members, free. Reservations required at JewishCulturalSociety.org. 975-9872.

***"Brush Lettering Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to learn the basics of this modern

calligraphy style. 7-8 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

***"Decorative Magnet Board Gift": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Dawn Henry shows how to personalize a magnet board. Bring your own small trinkets, including your initials, flowers, ribbons, photos, and small rocks. 7-8 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327-4200.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 663-2037.

***Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, including fiction by Meagan L. Dugger and Logan Lane. 7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764-6330.

***Marilyn Mason Memorial Tribute: American Guild of Organists.** Performances by several of her former students in honor of the nationally renowned late organist, a former head of the U-M organ department. Reception follows. 7 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662-1679.

***"Midnight Madness": Main Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Appearances by Santa and Miss Washtenaw County. Sidewalk entertainment by the U-M Women's Glee Club, Pioneer Choir, Anything Goes Quartet, Morris Dancers, and more. Also, **Santa's Mailbox** is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA), Dec. 2-Dec. 15, in front of Conor O'Neill's (318 S. Main); include a return address to receive a response from Santa. 7-9 p.m. (many stores stay open till midnight), Main St. shopping areas. Free admission. 668-7112.

"Sleeping Beauty": EMU Music & Dance Department. EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome-Wilkinson directs EMU students in her choreography of a 60-minute abridgement of Marius Petipa's 1890 ballet, with a live performance of the Tchaikovsky beloved score by the EMU Symphony Orchestra. 7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$8; children under 13, \$7) in advance at EMUTix.com and at the door. 487-2282.

"Holiday Road Trip": Saline Varsity Blues. Dec. 6 & 7. This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7-18 performs its annual program of holiday songs. 7 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets \$10 in advance at SalineCommunityEd and Busch's; \$13 at the door. SalineVarsityBlues.org

"Still Life with Iris": EMU Theatre Department. Every Fri.-Sun., Dec. 6-15. EMU theater professor Patricia Moore Zimmer directs EMU students in Steven Dietz's 1997 drama, a fantastical adventure about a young girl searching for her home. Aimed at theatergoers age 7 & up. 7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun. & Dec. 14), EMU Quirk Theatre, Quirk Hall, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$18 (seniors, \$14; students, \$12; kids 12 & under, \$7) in advance at emuTix.com, and at the door. 487-2282.

Funky Frosty Friday: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate to recorded country music. Prizes for best costume. 7:15-8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. \$5 (youth ages 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$4). Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6234.

"Meowidday Nights": Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center. Dec. 6 & 13. All ages 12 and over invited to a screening of a holiday film TBA. Also, a chance to snuggle with adoptable cats. Cookies & hot chocolate. 7:30 p.m., Tiny Lions, 5245 Jackson Rd. \$10 per person. 661-3575.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 7:30 p.m.

42nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. Dec. 6-8. Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Angie Lai directs a large cast of Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 7) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 8), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$10-\$16 in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office and online at cuua.edu/KreftArts-Tickets. 995-7537.

"A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. See 5 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Moody McCarthy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

***Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. 8-10 p.m., 5th fl. rooftop observatory, An-

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gell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764-3440.

★**"Obsession": Contemporary Directions Ensemble.** Adrian Slywotzky directs this U-M music school ensemble in a program featuring works about obsession by Andrew Norman, Nina C. Young, Thea Musgrave, and Marc Mellits. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baitts. Free. 615-3204.

★**"Sounds of the Season": Measure for Measure.** This local men's chorus, directed by Pioneer High choir director Steven Lorenz, performs carol arrangements & holiday songs, along with a joint set with the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Plus, world premiere of a piece it commissioned, Stacey V. Gibbs' *A Song of Triumph: The Peaceful Movement*. 8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. \$18 (students, kids age 11 & under and seniors, \$12) in advance at Measure-For-Measure.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 649-7664.

★**"Pointless Improv": Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** Dec. 6 & 20. Comedic improv by experienced local groups, including resident Pointless group This is a Quiz and long-form improv from the League of Pointless Improvisers. 8 & 10 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$15 (8 p.m.) & \$12 (10 p.m.) in advance at PointlessBrew.com & at the door. (989) 455-4484.

★**Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church).** This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, MA, a Green Wood favorite, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor. Tonight he celebrates the release of his new CD, *Live at the Guthrie Center*, which he describes as a homecoming album, "home to the things that drew me to this folk world when I was a teenager." 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$20 in advance and at the door. 665-8558.

★**"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Grapes of Wrath": U-M Theatre Department.** See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"A New Brain": U-M Theatre Department.** See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Yeomen of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.** See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**U-M Ice Hockey vs. Penn State.** Dec. 6 & 7. 8:30 p.m. (Dec. 6) & 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 7), Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Tickets TBA at mGoBlue.com/tickets. 764-0247.

★**"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Every Fri. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. 9 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. \$5 (students with ID and AACTMAD members, \$4). (847) 757-0942.

7 SATURDAY

★**Christmas Cookie & Vendor Market: St. Joseph Catholic Church.** Market with cookies by the pound and assorted vendor tables. 9 a.m.-noon, St. Joseph Parish Center, 3430 Dover, Dexter. Free admission. 426-8483.

★**36th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival: Ann Arbor City Club.** Juried show and sale of photography, jewelry, woodworking, ceramics, watercolors, dolls, Helen Springer baskets, and much more by 50 exhibitors. Also, sale of holiday greens, including wreaths, poinsettias, and more. Lunch available for purchase (11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.). 9 a.m.-4 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. \$3 admission. 662-3279 ext. 1.

★**Hanukkah Bazaar: Women of Temple Beth Emeth.** Dec. 7 & 8. Sale of gelt, candles, dreidels, menorahs, gift wrap, toys, cards, kitchen items, music, jewelry, and more. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Sat.) & 3-7:30 p.m. (Sun.), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665-4744.

★**Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Area Girl Scouts.** Sale of scout-made arts & crafts and Girl Scouts nuts and candy. Lunch available for purchase. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 770-4308.

★**Annual Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center.** Show and sale of handmade gifts, including wooden toys, knitted gloves and scarves, jams and jellies, and more. Also, the popular Grandma's Attic sale of second-hand holiday decorations and gifts. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., DSC, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426-7737.

★**Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Heritage Guild.** Sale of handcrafted gifts, holiday decorations, winter apparel, scrubbies, baked treats & canned goods, and more. Raffles of a quilt, a torte made by former Dexter restaurateur Paul Cousins, local gift cards, and Christmas decorations. Also, the museum gift shop is open. Proceeds benefit the museum. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Dexter Area Historical Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter. Free admission. 426-2519.

★**Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** Dec. 7 & 14. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. Note: Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult; ages 16-18 must submit a permission form. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 7), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Dec. 14), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistration required online at mbgna.umich.edu

★**Winterberry Holiday Fair: Dexter United Methodist Church.** Sale of crafts and goods by local artists. Also, a rummage sale, gift baskets, and specialty food items. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., DUMC, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free admission. 426-8480.

★**"Christmas at the Mansion": Dexter Area Historical Society.** Dec. 7 & 8. Two days of seasonal events at Gordon Hall, the 19th-century mansion built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter. Sat.: display of the museum's Christmas Vintage Collection, Milt Campbell's huge collection of Department 56 collectible holiday houses, buildings, and figures that were once traditionally seen in the windows of Huron Camera in downtown Dexter throughout the holiday season. Sat.: Santa (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) is on hand to talk with kids, who also can make their own gingerbread house to take home. Sun.: Christmas Tea. Light lunch with tea sandwiches and desserts. This year's tea is a celebration of early women's rights pioneer Katharine Dexter McCormick, who was born at Gordon Hall, and the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Also, the museum hosts an open house (\$5 per adult) to view the Christmas Vintage Collection, 5-7:30 p.m. on Dec. 13, 14, 21, & 28. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.) and 1 & 4 p.m. seatings (Sun.), Gordon Hall, 8347 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. \$5 on Sat., \$30 on Sun.; reservations required for Sun. by calling 395-4106.

★**"Christmas in the Village": Manchester Chamber of Commerce.** Downtown Manchester bustles with holiday activities, including several craft shows and artisan markets, a luncheon with Santa, carriage rides, gingerbread house craft activity, chili cookoff, reindeer trail walk/run, pajama movie party for kids, cocktail crawl for adults, and more. Festivities kick off on Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. with a parade that brings Santa down Main St. to the mill where he lights the Christmas tree and greets children. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.), downtown Manchester. Free admission. 476-4565.

★**"Follow the Star: Christmas Crèche Exhibit": Holy Faith Episcopal Church/ELCA Lutheran Church.** Display of more than 300 nativities from around the world. Cookies & activities for kids. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Holy Faith Church, 6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. Free. 429-2991.

★**"Advent Happening Arts & Crafts": First Presbyterian Church.** All ages invited to decorate cookies and make gifts, cards, and ornaments. Childcare available for babies age 2 & under (reservations required). 10 a.m.-noon, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466 ext. 342.

★**U-M Natural History Museum Tours.** Every Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 15. 30-minute guided tours showcasing some of the museum's long beloved and new exhibits. "Museum Highlights Tour" (10 a.m. & 2 p.m.) shows a mastodon couple, the Majungasaurus dinosaur, and some of the new research labs. "Wonderful World of Whales" (noon & 4 p.m.) shows how whales and dolphins made the transition from land back to water. Various times, Natural History Museum, 1105 North University. Free. 764-0478.

★**8th Annual Holiday Sale: Huron Valley Woodturners.** Dec. 7 & 8. Ten local woodturners show and sell their bowls, pens, vases, lamps, candlesticks, ornaments, rolling pins, crochet sets, ice cream scoops, and more. Also, demos. Cider & cookies. Partial proceeds benefit the Webster Historical Society and the Virtual Dialysis Support Center. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Crossroads Community Center, 5501 Webster Church Rd., Dexter. Free admission. eperry@umich.edu, 915-4915.

★**Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild.** Dec. 7 & 8. Popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Large selection of functional and decorative ceramics by local artists. Includes a kids' area with gifts priced for their budgets. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

★**"Small Woodland Wonders": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Families invited to learn about winter and create miniature winter scenes using natural materials. 10 a.m.-noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$12; metered parking, preregistration recommended. 647-7600.

★**Holiday Greens Workshop: Ann Arbor Garden Club.** A club member shows how to make a holiday wreath or decoration. Bring your own garden shears; materials provided. 10 a.m.-noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$15, metered parking. RSVP requested at nHartGreen@aol.com. 761-8281.

★**Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden.** Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them Christmas

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oranges, and take Christmas lists. Free eggnog, hot cider, chestnuts roasted on an open fire, cranberry salad and other side dishes, and, while they last, samples of smoked Christmas turkey. Also, a performance by the **Oliver Mayman Quintet**, a jazz ensemble led by drummer Mayman, a recent Community/Huron High grad. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., *Downtown Home & Garden*, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662-8122.

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Farm Museum. Dec. 7 & 8. This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas as costumed guides lead tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse, 1840s log house, outbuildings (with a blacksmith at work at the forge), and the one-room Dewey School (a short drive away on Territorial). Also, sales of baked goods, holiday greens, and gifts. Reading of *The Night Before Christmas*, times TBA. Live music TBA. Concessions. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & noon-4 p.m. (Sun.), *Waterloo Farm Museum*, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd., *Waterloo Recreation Area*, Chelsea. \$5 admission (seniors, \$4; kids ages 5-12, \$2; age 4 & under, free). (517) 648-3676.

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. Dec. 7 & 8. With used puzzles, games, and DVDs, along with gift-quality books and books on CD, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 1-4 p.m. (Sun.), *AADL Multipurpose Rm.*, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 302-7774.

***Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Speedway.** Dec. 7 & 28. One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. 10 a.m. (registration 8-9:30 a.m.), *Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds*, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. Free admission. \$15 to race (\$25 with a rental car). (517) 290-7128.

***"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department.** Dec. 7, 14. Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M and visiting scholars. Dec. 7: U-M astronomy professor Elena Gallo on "Black Holes: Facts, Myths, and Mysteries." Dec. 14: U-M environmental education professor Jonathan Overpeck on "Climate Change Opportunities and Challenges for Michigan." 10:30-11:30 a.m., 170 & 182 Weiser, 500 Church. Free. 764-4437.

"Pet Photos with Santa": Humane Society of Huron Valley. Dec. 7 & 8. All invited to bring pets to meet Santa. Bring cats in carriers and dogs on leashes. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., *Pet Supplies Plus*, 2607 Plymouth Rd. (Sat.) & 2224 S. Main (Sun.). \$10-\$15 donation (includes a digital or printed photo). 661-3527.

Craft Show: Maker Works. Show and sale of gift items made, in whole or part, at Maker Works. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., *Maker Works*, 3765 Plaza Dr. Free admission. 222-4911.

"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition featuring *Today's Brass Quintet*, an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classical, and holiday tunes. With trumpeters Mitchell Wechsler and Jean Moorehead Libs, tuba player Joseph DeMarsh, trombonist Brian Robson, and French horn player Alan Taplin. Croissants, coffee, & juice. 11:30 a.m., *KCH*, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20-\$40 (students, \$10) in advance at *a2tix.com*. Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

"The Magic Flute": Fathom Events. Live broadcast of the *Metropolitan Opera* production of Mozart's beloved "opera fantaisie." At once a love story, a whimsical comedy, and an adventure filled with sinister deceptions, *The Magic Flute* is above all an unsurpassed celebration, by turns jubilant and unsettlingly haunting, of the power of music. With tenor Matthew Polenzani, baritone Nathan Gunn, and bass René Pape. 12:55 p.m., *Quality 16* (3686 Jackson) & *Imagine Saline* (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets \$14 & \$15 in advance at *FathomEvents.com/Events*. 623-7469 (Quality 16), 316-5500 (Imagine).

***Ecology Center of Ann Arbor.** All invited to create an ornament with shells, beads, buttons, and more to use as winter decorations in the Ann Arbor Senior Center. Materials provided. 1-3 p.m., *Senior Center*, 1320 Baldwin. Free, preregistration requested at *Education@EcoCenter.org*. 369-9277.

***"You Wrote a Novel ... Now What?": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local writer Lillian Li discusses the writing, revising, and publishing process. Q&A. 1-2:30 p.m., *AADL Westgate*. Free. 327-4200.

***German Family Open House: Kempf House Museum.** Dec. 7, 8, & 15. Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, which is decked out with a traditional tree (featuring antique glass ornaments) and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early-20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. Also, on Dec. 15 only, *caroling* (4-5 p.m.) around Kempf House's 1877 Steinway grand piano. 1-4 p.m., *Kempf House*, 312 S. Division. Free, but donations welcome. 994-4898.

U-M Women's Gymnastics. This perennial national power opens its season with an exhibition match vs.

CMU, EMU, and WMU. 2 p.m., *Crisler Center*. Tickets TBA at *mGoBlue.com/tickets*. 764-0247.

Argentine Tango Practice: Sophia & El Kronox. Every Sat. Tango dancing to recorded music. No partner or experience necessary. Preceded at 1 p.m. by a lesson (\$10). 2-3 p.m., *Phoenix Center*, 220 S. Main. \$5 (free with lesson). *SophiaTango.com*, 634-9629.

***"Decluttering and Downsizing": Ann Arbor District Library.** Sharon McRill, owner of local relocation company The Betty Brigade, discusses her book *Downsizing the Silver Tsunami*. Q&A. 2-3:30 p.m., *AADL Malletts Creek*. Free. 327-4200.

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. Dec. 7, 8, 14, & 15. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based company of young dancers ages 8-18 in her choreography of Tchaikovsky's ballet, with narration based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." Live accompaniment by the *Jackson Symphony Orchestra*. On Dec. 7 & 8, the matinee is preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a *Sugarplum Fairy Tea* (adults, \$20 & students, \$15 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. 2 p.m. (Dec. 7, 8, & 15) & 7 p.m. (Dec. 14), *Chelsea High School*, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea (Dec. 7 & 8) & *Jackson College Potter Center*, 2111 Emmons, Jackson (Dec. 14 & 15). \$15-\$30 (students, \$10-\$25) in advance at *BalletChelsea.org* and at the door. 475-3070.

"A New Brain": U-M Theatre Department. See 5 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Yeomen of the Guard": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

***Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Dec. 7 & 21. All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Momingstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook*, Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection*, and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. 3-6 p.m., *Pittsfield Grange*, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 994-9307.

"A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. See 5 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"World Dance Workout": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. World Dance Workout local instructor Jaclyn Morrow leads this strength training dance session. 4-5 p.m., *Interfaith Center*, 704 Airport Blvd. \$15. *WorldDanceWorkout.net*, 327-0270.

Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels Fundraiser. Tour of 4 Ypsilanti homes, all decorated for the holidays. Reception at the Michigan Firehouse Museum to follow, with food, drinks, and dancing to jazz by the Rob Crozier Ensemble with guest vocalist Danbee Lee. 4-7 p.m. (reception, 6-9 p.m.), various locations. Tickets \$70 in advance only at *a2tix.com*, *ymow.org*, *Nelson Amos Studio*, *Haab's restaurant*, & the *YMOW* office. 487-9669.

***"Love in Catalina Cove": In Good Company African American Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Brenda Jackson's 2018 romance novel. 4 p.m., *Nicola's Books*, 2513 Jackson, *Westgate shopping center*. Free. 662-0600.

Detroit Handbell Ensemble: Zion Lutheran Church Concert Series. Brenda Austin directs the ensemble in seasonal works. 4 p.m., *Zion*, 1501 W. Liberty. \$10 (students, free). 994-4455.

Fall Concert: Michigan Gospel Chorus. Gospel music by this U-M student chorus. 5-7 p.m., *Reach Church*, 401 S. Adams St., Ypsilanti. Free, donations welcome. 516-3092.

***Annual Christmas Parade: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** The 44th annual parade features floats, bands, baton twirlers, dancers, animals, a hot air balloon, and Santa in his sleigh. 5:30-7:30 p.m., *downtown Saline*. Free shuttle available from *Busch's shopping center*, 565 E. Michigan Ave. Free. 429-4494.

"Staying Power: Concrete, Not Wood": The Neutral Zone. Ypsilanti teens, in collaboration with peers from Richmond (CA), present a multimedia production on gentrification and housing injustice featuring poetry, music, theater, and film. 6-9 p.m., *Ypsilanti High School*, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (ages 21 & under, \$5; VIP, \$45; YHS students, free) in advance at the *Neutral Zone* (310 E. Washington) & online at *bit.ly/StayingPower_CNW*, and at the door. Discounts available for groups of 5 or more. 214-9995.

"24th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local multiethnic vocal ensemble performs songs from various spiritual traditions addressing social change, peace, and justice. With and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Performers include Faye Askew-King, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Deborah Greene, D. Yarrow Halstead, Laura Machida, Jeff Pickell, Phil Roos, La'Ron Williams, Robin Wilson, Dale Petty, along with guest guitarist Sam Clark, &

vocalists Edie Lewis and Kathleen Moore. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit Flint Rising, We the People of Detroit, & The People's Water Board (Detroit). 7 p.m., *First Unitarian Universalist Congregation*, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$20 in advance; \$25 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door; kids age 11 & under, free. (616) 821-7252, 358-2665.

"Drum and Drummer": U-M Groove Performance Group. High-energy performance by this U-M student percussion-and-dance ensemble, which uses both traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). 7 p.m., *Michigan Theater*. Tickets \$8 (students, \$5) in advance at the *Michigan Union Ticket Office* (*muto.umich.edu*), and (if available) at the door. *Facebook.com/umGroove*

"Holiday Road Trip": Saline Varsity Blues. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Still Life with Iris": EMU Theatre Department. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Maevie Devlin calls to live music by Stout Hearted String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, clean shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson for beginners. 7:30-10:30 p.m., *Pittsfield Union Grange*, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Pay what you can, \$10 suggested. 769-1052.

42nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 6 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Moody McCarthy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

***Euchre Night: Temple Beth Emeth.** All invited to play. No partner necessary. 8 p.m., *TBE Adult Lounge*, 2309 Packard. Free. *djostrei@umich.edu*, 665-4744.

"141st Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). Dec. 7 & 8. Scott Hanoian directs the 175-voice Choral Union and members of the *Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra* in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano Jeanine De Bique, mezzo-soprano Alegra De Vita, tenor Taylor Stayton, and bass-baritone Philippe Sly. The Choral Union *Messiah*, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. 8 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), *Hill Auditorium*. Tickets \$19-\$45 (students, \$12-\$20) in advance at *tickets.ums.org*, at *Michigan League*, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764-2538.

***Yaron Kohlberg: U-M School of Music.** Recital by this guest pianist of solo works and the Dvorak Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81, with violinists Eliot Eaton and Christine Harada Li, violist Yizhak Schotten, and cellist Leo Singer. 8 p.m., *U-M Moore Bldg.*, *Britton Recital Hall*, 1100 Bais. Free. 615-3204.

"Something to Live For: The Music of Billy Strayhorn": Kerrytown Concert House. An ensemble of local jazz musicians performs contemporary interpretations of the compositions of this longtime Duke Ellington collaborator. With pianist Scott Gwinnell, bassist Rob Bickley, drummer Pete Siers, vocalist Emma Aboukasm, and Janelle Reichman on saxophone & clarinet. 8 p.m., *KCH*, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20-\$40 (students, \$10) in advance at *a2tix.com*. 769-2999.

Dixon's Violin: This Is a Good Sound. Avant-garde improvisations by a former DSO violinist who goes by the name of Dixon's Violin. He performs on a five-string electric violin and a looping system. 8-9:30 p.m. (doors, 7 p.m.), *Stone Chalet Bed & Breakfast Inn*, 1917 Washtenaw. Tickets \$15 in advance at *a2tix.com* or \$20 at the door. 417-7223.

"The Grapes of Wrath": U-M Theatre Department. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Forte Factory": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. The Pointless musical improv team improvises a one-act musical inspired by a conversation with the audience. 8 & 10 p.m., *Pointless*, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$15 (8 p.m.) & \$12 (10 p.m.) in advance at *PointlessBrew.com* & at the door. (989) 455-4484.

Latin Dance Party: Dance Revolution. Dec. 7 & 21. High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. Preceded by beginner (7 p.m.) and intermediate/advanced (8 p.m.) salsa lessons. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., *Phoenix Center*, 220 S. Main. \$12 (students with ID, \$8) includes lesson; \$5 for dance only. *Facebook.com/A2DanceRevolution*

8 SUNDAY

Saline Antiques & Vintage Market. Show and sale of antiques and vintage items. Deliveries available. Concessions. Leashed pets welcome. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., *Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds*, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. \$5 admission (children age 15 & under with an adult, free). *SalineMarket@gmail.com*, (937) 875-0808.

Artisan Market: Argus Farm Stop. Sale of handmade goods from more than 12 local artisans, with live



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music by fiddler Violin Monster. Farm stop also open. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Argus, 1200 Packard. Free admission. 997-5448.

★“Scientist Spotlight”: U-M Natural History Museum. U-M research scientists in a range of fields from anthropology and psychology to chemistry and sustainability lead various activities based on their current work. For example, visitors might look at miniature versions of an archaeological site to draw conclusions about the people who lived there. For kids in upper elementary-adults. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1105 North University. Free. 764-0478.

Holiday Art Studio Sale. Sale of oil paintings by local artist Jaye Schlesinger. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 307 W. Davis Ave. Free admission. 417-3032.

★“Law, Science, and Ethics in Modern Society”: First United Methodist Church Conversations About Science and Religion. All invited to join a discussion led by U-M law, obstetrics & gynecology, and reproductive justice professor Edward B. Goldman. 11 a.m.-noon. FUMC Calkins Hall, 120 S. State. Free. 662-4536.

★Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Sun. Talks by Jewel Heart's resident spiritual advisor Demo Rinpoche on various aspects of Tibetan Buddhism. Followed by tea, snacks, and socializing. 11 a.m.-noon. Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 1129 Oak Valley Drive. Free, donations accepted. 994-3387.

★“The Innocents Movement”: First Congregational Church Contemporary Issues Committee. Ann Arbor attorney Ashley Tingstad discusses her work overturning wrongful convictions. 11:10 a.m., FCC Mayflower Rm., 608 E. William. Free. 662-1679.

“Country Christmas”: Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of a mid-19th-century Christmas, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, kids activities, and live holiday music. Sale of handmade crafts from local crafters. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds. Noon-4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2 (discounts available for seniors & kids). 794-7120.

★“Washtenaw Area Pickup Robotics Exhibition Day”: Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to watch as robots, built in mere weeks by area high school robotics teams, compete in 2 vs. 2 volleyball matches. Finals start around 5 p.m. Noon-6 p.m., U-M Sports Coliseum, 721 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 327-4200.

★U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, Tony Kushner's celebrated 2-play series exploring the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture. Noon, Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

“Meet the Cheese: Cheddar”: Zingerman's Creamery. Dec. 8 & 28. Staffers discuss curd, texture, & flavor of cheddars. Tastings. 1-2:30 p.m., (Dec. 8) & 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Dec. 28), Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$15, preregistration required. 929-0500.

★Benjamin Green & Elijah Meisse: UMMA Pop-Up. These U-M music students perform techno-inspired music in the museum. 1-2pm, UMMA. Free. 764-0395.

★“Holiday Nature Crafts”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalists Kelsey Dehring and Shawn Severance teach family-friendly crafts using natural materials. Hot cocoa provided; Michigan-grown chestnuts on hand for roasting. 2-4 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline. eWashtenaw.org. \$6 vehicle entry fee. 971-6337.

★“Real Talk on Islam”: Ann Arbor District Library. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community regional missionary Shamshad Nasir discusses Islam, the True Teachings, and confusion about Islam. 2-3 p.m., Malletts Creek. Free. 327-4200.

★Ann Arbor TubaChristmas. George Thompson conducts this annual outdoor performance, now in its 22nd year, of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held this month across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Musicians invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join around 40 players in the performance. Registration (9:30 a.m.) and rehearsal (10 a.m.-noon) at the EMU Alexander Music Building. Bring a sack lunch, dress for the weather. Music books (\$16) & TubaChristmas hats (\$15) available. 2-3 p.m., Farmers Market. Free to spectators (\$10 for musicians). SlowToReply@gmail.com, 395-9544.

★Chess Learn & Play: Sweetwaters Plymouth Green. All invited to play chess, with instructions for beginners. Boards provided, or bring your own. 2-4 p.m., Sweetwaters, 3393 Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 369-4568.

Monthly Euchre Tournament: The Loaded Die. Individuals & 2-player teams welcome. Prizes. 2-4 p.m., Blom Meadworks, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$8

(league members, free) in advance at Facebook.com/DrinkBlom and at the door. 548-9729.

★“Copies and Invention in East Asia”: UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of duplicated artwork from China, Korea, and Japan, including paintings and Buddhist sculptures. 2-3 p.m., meet in the UMMA forum, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

★Holiday Open House: Ypsilanti Historical Museum. All invited to tour the museum, which is decorated for the holidays. Docents from the Ypsilanti Historical Society on hand to answer questions & guide tours. Refreshments. 2-5 p.m., Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free, donations accepted. 482-4990.

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Cincinnati callers Mike Self, Nicholas Rockstroh, and Mike White lead dances to live music by Judi Morningstar, Brad Battey, and Susie Lorand. For experienced dancers. 2-5:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse (off S. State across from the airport). \$12 (members, \$10). (248) 288-4737.

★“Piano Party!”: King's Keyboard House. Pianists of all levels invited to play 1-2 pieces at this open mike. 2-4 p.m., King's Keyboard House, 2363 E. Stadium. Free; RSVP requested. 663-3381.

“141st Annual Handel's Messiah”: University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 7 Saturday. 2 p.m.

“The Nutcracker”: Ballet Chelsea. See 7 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★“Image of Race in America”: U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from several contemporary plays, as well as original student writings on race in America. 2 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

“Still Life with Iris”: EMU Theatre Department. See 6 Friday. 2 p.m.

“Yeomen of the Guard”: U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

“The Grapes of Wrath”: U-M Theatre Department. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

“Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

“A New Brain”: U-M Theatre Department. See 5 Thursday. 2 p.m.

“DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto”: Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

★“In Conversation: Finding Memories in Found Photographs”: UMMA. Assistant curator of photography Jennifer Freiss leads an interactive tour exploring the significance of everyday photos. Participants can vote for photos to be kept in UMMA's permanent collection. 3-4 p.m., UMMA ArtGym. Free, preregistration required at umma.umich.edu. 764-0395.

★“O Magnum Mysterium, A Christmas Concert”: St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. Lucia Campbell conducts the church's adult choir in hymns, carols, and other seasonal music. With pianist Jeanne Marie Gerig and a 4-trumpet ensemble. 3 p.m., St. Thomas, 530 Elizabeth St. Free, donations accepted. 761-8606.

★Javanese Gamelan Concert: U-M School of Music. Members of the gamelan, an assembly of 50 gongs and metallophones, drums, strings, flutes, xylophone, and singers, perform traditional Indonesian music. 3 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Batis. Free. 615-3204.

“A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol”: Saline Area Players. See 5 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music featuring Claude Smith's *Rhapsody on Christmas Carols*, and Morrissey's “Parade of the Wooden Soldiers.” A vocal quartet TBA joins the band in renditions of Irving Berlin Christmas songs. Also, a visit from Santa, who gives out candy canes and joins a sing-along of traditional Christmas songs. Followed by cookies & punch. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

★“Classical Bells”: Ann Arbor District Library. Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose performances are known for their interpretive flair, technical skill, and informal choreography, along with a dash of humor. This popular annual concert showcases the group's varied repertoire of classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. Limited seating, so it's smart to arrive early. 3:30-4:30 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby. Free. 327-4200.

★“Performance Improvisation Showing”: U-M Dance Department. Performances by students in U-M dance professor Amy Chavasse's improvisation class. 4 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763-5460.

classical music



GLEN THOMAS

Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Blossoming out

Watching British cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason pour his heart and soul into a performance can be a powerfully moving experience. His repertoire, which ranges from Dmitri Shostakovich and J.S. Bach to Leonard Cohen and Bob Marley, reveals a healthy, well-rounded appetite for music that conveys a strong current of human feelings. The modest, soft-spoken virtuoso attained classical superstar status after serenading the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at last year's royal wedding.

Kanneh-Mason began playing the cello as a child and came up under the influence of Pablo Casals and Jacqueline du Pré. An online video documents his recent visit to Sotheby's, where he had the honor of handling three cellos that once belonged to his idol, Mstislav Rostropovich. We see him cradling a rare specimen built by Venetian luthier Santo Serafin in 1741. Gently applying the bow, thrilling to the sensation of the strings beneath his fingertips, enveloped in the warm resonance that he describes as "blossoming out" from the instrument, he closes his eyes and frowns slightly as if inhaling the sound like a fragrance.

Kanneh-Mason is one of seven siblings, all of whom have embraced musicianship as a way of life. Matriarch Kadiatu Kanneh is a Welsh literary academic who was born in Sierra Leone. Her husband, Stuart Mason, is an English businessman (with a

degree in physics) whose parents emigrated from Antigua in the West Indies. The family is busily expanding the presence of people of African ancestry in European classical music—a realm where, as eldest daughter Isata observes, black role models are scarce. Active in the Royal Academy of Music since age nine, she is now flourishing as a concert pianist and inspiring her siblings to follow their own musical paths.

On December 10, Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason will present an evening of chamber music at Rackham Auditorium. The program will begin with Beethoven's ingeniously constructed variations on a perky aria from Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, in which Papageno sings of his quest for female companionship. By way of contrast, the next work on the program is Witold Lutoslawski's somber *Grave* ("Metamorphoses for cello and piano"), composed as an elegy for Stefan Jarocinski, a musicologist who specialized in the life and works of Claude Debussy. The "metamorphoses" are based on a motif from Debussy's only opera, *Pelléas et Mélisande*. *Grave* also bears metamorphic resemblance to Lutoslawski's *Musique funèbre*, a posthumous tribute to Bela Bartok. The remainder of the concert will showcase the duo's dexterous interplay with Samuel Barber's florid Sonata for Violoncello and Piano, and Sergei Rachmaninoff's eloquently poetic Cello Sonata in G minor.

—arwulf arwulf

33rd Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Choral. The AAYC descant and concert choirs of talented young local singers ages 9–16 perform a program of seasonal music TBA. Reception to follow. 4–5:15 p.m. (doors open at 3:30 p.m.), Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (seniors age 65 & over and kids age 12 & under, \$5) at the door only. 996-4404.

42nd Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 6 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**"A Necessary Evil": Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Abir Mukherjee's 2018 novel about the assassination of the prince of a wealthy kingdom. 4:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769-2149.

★**"Story Slam": First Presbyterian Church.** All invited to an open mike storytelling session where 7 audience members volunteer to tell short and true stories. Followed by a reception with refreshments, dogs to pet, and live music by the Community High Jazz quartet, harpist Deborah Gabrion, and an a cappella group TBA. 6–8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466 ext. 342.

★**"A Heritage Holiday": George Shirley Scholarship Fundraiser (Northside Community Church).** Performances featuring tenor Stanford Olsen, mezzo-soprano Olivia Johnson, sopranos JoAna Rusche and Julia Fertel, vocalists Adellyn Geenen and Kaswana Kanyinda, operatic vocalist Kimwana Doner-Chandler, and others. Also, Darnell Ishmel directs Our Own Thing Chorale, the popular local choir that performs spirituals and works by

African American composers. With pianist Kathryn Goodson. 6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free, donations welcome. 662-6351.

★**"Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam."** Dec. 8 & 22. Musicians of all ability levels invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. The 2nd Sunday of each month features a focus song, followed by jamming. The 4th Sunday features an open mike for solo, duo, and trio performers, followed by jamming. Also, a session for songwriters (Dec. 15, Great Oak Cohousing common area, 500 Little Lake Dr.) to try out new work and get feedback. 7–9 p.m., U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. \$5 for participants, spectators free; preregistration required at Meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. 973-7791.

Shadow League Callbacks: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. All invited to watch comics perform in the tryout finals for this resident Pointless improv team. 7:30 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$15 (8 p.m.) & \$12 (10 p.m.) in advance at PointlessBrew.com & at the door. (989) 455-4484.

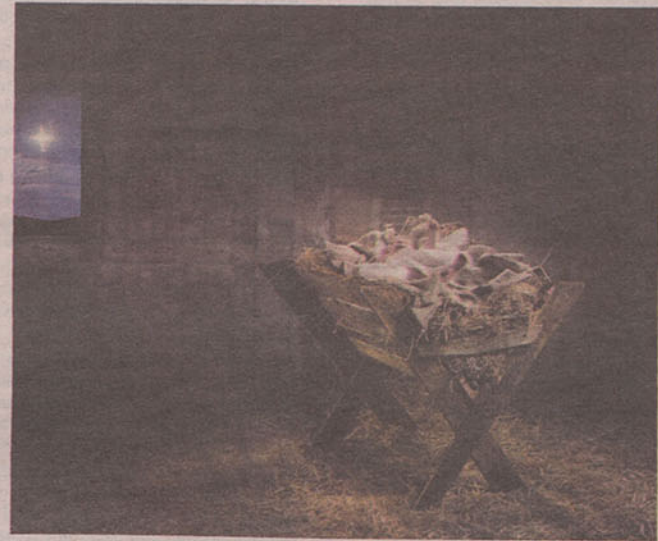
9 MONDAY

Used Book Sale: U-M Library. Sale of books and other items from the library's collection. 10 a.m.–10 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free admission. 764-0400.

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★**"A Valedictory Address":** U-M Clements Library. Talk by retiring Clements director Kevin Graffagnino on his 11 years with the library. 5:30–7 p.m., U-M Ross Business School Blau Hall, 700 E. University. Free, preregistration requested at Clements.umich.edu. 764–2347.

★**"Block Printing Workshop":** Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to carve a simple stamp to decorate blank note cards. Materials provided. No experience necessary. 6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.

★**"Chocolate & Candy Making 101":** Ann Arbor District Library. The Lakehouse Bakery (Chelsea) owner Keegan Rodgers demonstrates how to make chocolate truffles, rock candies, as well as brittle and bark. Samples. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327–4200.

★**"How International Experience Can Strengthen Your College Application":** Ann Arbor District Library. Talks by Ann Arbor Public Schools college counseling coordinator John Boshoven, Global Leadership Adventures manager Heidi Bohn, Kalamazoo College director of admissions Andrew Grayson, and AAPS international education partnership coordinator Jennifer Nemecek. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.

★**"Exploring the Mind: 7 Ways Children's Storytelling Skills Impact Literacy Development":** Ann Arbor Public Schools. Talk by U-M psychology professor Nicole Gardner-Neblett. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm. Free. 327–4200.

★**Scandinavian Music Jam.** Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All musicians invited. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Great Oak Cohousing common area, 500 Little Lake Dr. Free. (908) 721–2599.

10 TUESDAY

★**"How Polio Helped FDR Win the Presidency":** U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by Miami University journalism professor James Tobin. Fourth in a series of 5 monthly lectures. 10–11:30 a.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg, Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$55 (members, \$30) for 5-lecture series; memberships are \$25 a year. \$10 per lecture for members. 998–9351.

★**Annual Nobel Symposium:** U-M Center for the Study of Complex Systems. Seven U-M scholars (engineering professor Wei Lu, physics professor Fred Adams, physiology professor Yatrik Shah, economics professor Dean Yang, law professor Laura Nyantung Beny, comparative literature professor Benjamin Paloff, and Germanic languages & literature professor Johannes von Moltke), and Indiana University Germanic studies professor Teresa Kovacs professor each discuss the work, impact, and personalities of the seven 2019 Nobel laureates. 1–5:30 p.m., 10th fl. Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 763–3301.

★**"Special Collections After Hours: Dissecting the Human Body in the Renaissance":** U-M Special Collections Library. Display of early printed books of anatomical illustrations, including work by Leonardo da Vinci and Andreas Vesalius, the Flemish physician regarded as the founder of modern anatomy. Refreshments. 4–6 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library 6th fl., enter from the Diag. Free. 936–2311.

★**"4th Annual Holiday Gala":** Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers. Silent auction and mead tasting. 6–9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; mead tasting (includes 5 1-oz. pours), \$15. Metered parking. A2B2club@gmail.com

★**"Ari's Greatest Hits of 2019":** Zingerman's Delicatessen. Dec. 10 & 19. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products. This extremely popular annual event usually sells out. 6–8 p.m., Zingerman's Deli, 422 Detroit St. \$55 in advance and (if available) at the door. 663–3400.

★**"Coding with the micro:bit":** Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to learn how to use the micro:bit pocket-sized computing device to build a series of projects, from simple games to secret message radio transmitters. 6:30–8 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.

★**"Bluegrass Jam Circle":** Ann Arbor Senior Center. All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome. 7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. \$5 fee to cover building rental. a2bluegrass.com, 794–6250.

★**"Pub Sing":** Ann Arbor Morris. All invited to join local Morris dancers in an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. 7–10 p.m., Wolverine State Brewing Co., 2019 W. Stadium. Free, buy your own food & drink. (908) 721–2599.

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group:** U-M English Department. All age 21 & over invited to a screening of the 2004 sci-fi film *Primer*.

★**Fathom Events.** 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine). Tickets \$11.50–\$12.50 in advance at FathomEvents.com/Events and at the door. Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), & Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline), different times.

Dec. 1 & 3: **"When Harry Met Sally"** (Rob Reiner, 1989). Enduring, witty rom-com. Billy Crystal, Meg Ryan. 4 & 7 p.m.

Dec. 2: **"Love and Mercy"** (Michal Kondrat, 2019). Biopic of a 1990s Polish Roman Catholic nun who sees visions of Jesus Christ. 7 p.m.

Dec. 5: **"Gundam: Char's Counterattack"** (Yoshiyuki Tomino, 1988). 40th anniversary screening of this anime franchise about an epic battle to determine the fate of Earth. Post-film rebroadcast of a Q&A with the filmmaker. Japanese, subtitles. Ann Arbor 20 only. 7 p.m.

Dec. 7, 17, & 18: **"They Shall Not Grow Old"** (Peter Jackson, 2018). Poignant WWI documentary, with never-before-seen footage. Note: Dec. 17 & 18 screenings at Ann Arbor 20 only. 4 & 7 p.m.

Dec. 8: **"Promare"** (Hiroyuki Imaishi, 2019). Anime adventure about an epic battle between humans and flame-wielding mutants. Japanese, subtitles. Ann Arbor 20 & Emagine only. 12:55 p.m.

Dec. 8 & 11: **"Meet Me in St. Louis"** (Vincente Minnelli, 1944). 75th anniversary screening of this charming musical about a family's experience at the 1903 World's Fair. Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor. 1 & 4 p.m. (Dec. 8), 4 & 7 p.m. (Dec. 11).

Dec. 9: **"Live Baby Live at Wembley Stadium"** (David Mallet, 1991). Footage from a sold-out performance by the Australian rock band INXS, as well as band interviews and backstage footage. 7 p.m.

Dec. 16 & 18: **"The Tale of Princess Kaguya"** (Isao Takahata, 2013). Dubbed (Dec. 16) & subtitled (Dec. 18) screenings of this Japanese anime drama about a tiny girl found inside a stalk of bamboo who grows rapidly into an entrancing young princess. 7 p.m.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

Dec. 27: **"Living Matrix: The New Science of Healing"** (Greg Becker, 2012). Documentary about energy and information fields that regulate human bodies and their benefits to human health. Discussion follows.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are

Pizza provided; bring a drink or snack to share. 7–9 p.m., 1180 Duderstadt Center. Free. 764–2553.

★**"Economic Inequality":** Ann Arbor District Library. U-M economics professor Dmitriy Stolyarov discusses the pros and cons of various policies addressing economic inequality. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Multipurpose Rm. Free. 327–4200.

★**"The Madhouse Effect: How Climate Change Denial is Threatening Our Planet, Destroying Our Politics, and Driving Us Crazy":** Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss Tom Toles and Michael Mann's satirical look at climate change denial. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason: University Musical Society. See review, p. 69. Already internationally acclaimed at the age of 20, this remarkable British cellist was named the 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year and even performed at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's royal wedding in 2018. His forthcoming new album is an exploration of the musical landscape in pre- and post-war Europe anchored by Elgar's *Cello Concerto*. Tonight, he is joined by his sister, pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason**, in Beethoven's Variation in F Major, 20th-century Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski's *Grave*, Barber's Sonata for Cello and Piano, and Rachmaninoff's Sonata for Cello and Piano. 7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium, Tickets starting at \$30 (students, \$12–\$20) in advance at tickets.ums.org, at Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.

11 WEDNESDAY

★**"Freude und Freunde!":** U-M School of Music. U-M professor Stanford Olsen directs music school vocalists and instrumentalists in selections from classical oratorios. With pianist Kathryn Goodson. Noon, U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baitz. Free. 615–3204.

★**"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 p.m.

★**"3D Paper Snowflakes":** Ann Arbor District Library. All ages craft. 7–8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327–4200.

★**"French Macarons 101":** Ann Arbor District Library. The Lakehouse Bakery (Chelsea) owner

shown, usually 2–3 times a day. For complete, updated schedules, see MichTheater.org, AnnArborObserver.com, or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10.50 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8.50; MTF members, \$8; weekdays before 6 p.m., \$7) in advance at MichTheater.org and at the door. Times: (unless otherwise noted) TBA.

Dec. 1: **"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** (Ron Howard, 2000). Adaptation of the classic Dr. Seuss tale. Jim Carrey. Free. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 1: **"White Christmas"** (Michael Curtiz, 1954). Sing-along version (with onscreen lyrics) of the musical about 2 nightclub performers who help an old army pal try to make his winter resort popular. Musical score by Irving Berlin. Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney. Wear a Santa hat, if you wish. Also, preceded at 4 p.m. by **photos with Santa** and at 4:30 p.m. by **caroling with the Barton organ**. Tickets \$16 (students, kids 12 & under, seniors age 65 & older, & veterans, \$13). 5 p.m.

Dec. 2: **"The Last Waltz"** (Martin Scorsese, 1978). Celebrated documentary of the farewell concert by The Band, featuring performances by Dylan, Van Morrison, Muddy Waters, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Dr. John, Ronnie Hawkins, and others. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 4: **"Indigenous Peoples Shorts"** (Various directors & years). Six Indigenous shorts from Sundance Institute Fellows: *Birds in the Earth*, *Fainting Spells*, *Jáaji Approx.*, *My Father's Tools*, *Throat Singing in Kangirsuk*, and *Shinaab, Part II*. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 5: **"The Room"** (Tommy Wiseau, 2003). Dark comedy—a critically reviled ("the Citizen Kane of bad movies") cult favorite—about a successful banker who's about to be married until he finds out the horrible truth about his fiancée. 10 p.m.

Dec. 6: **"Warren Miller's Timeless"** (Warren Miller, 2019). Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller has been making family-oriented ski adventure films for 64 years. The annual Michigan Theater showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. Tickets \$15 (kids age 12 & under, \$12) in advance at Sun & Snow, TicketMaster.com, & at the door. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 6 & 7: **"Love Actually"** (Richard Curtis, 2003). Rom-com about half a dozen couples in love, highlighted by a wizened boorish rock star. Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Keira Knightley. 10 p.m.

Keegan Rodger demonstrates how to make and store macarons. Samples. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm. Free. 327–4200.

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short fiction. Bring about 8 copies of your work to share. 7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.

★**"The Plot Against America":** Motte & Bailey Booksellers History Readers. All invited to join a discussion, led by local historian Steve Thorp and retired Army procurement analyst Ron Fiorani, of Philip Roth's 2014 historical novel, which imagines a world in which pro-Nazi Charles Lindbergh defeats FDR for the presidency. 7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 484–3613.

★**"Comedy Jamm":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"What the Heck is Line 5 and Why Do You Care?":** Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters Brews & Views. RetireLine5.org founder Terri Wilkerson discusses the damaged 66-year-old oil pipeline passing under Michigan. Q&A. 7:30 p.m., Homes Brewery, 2321 Jackson Ave. Free, buy your own food & drink. 272–3634.

★**University Symphony Orchestra:** U-M School of Music. Kenneth Kiesler conducts this ensemble of music majors in Mahler's Symphony No. 5, Mozart's Symphony No. 32, and Bottesini's Concerto No. 2 for Double Bass, which features Cleveland Orchestra principal double bassist Maximilian Dimoff, a U-M music professor. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a pre-concert lecture in the lower lobby. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.

12 THURSDAY

★**"Incendiary Pictures":** The Radical Visual Rhetoric of Early Abolition: U-M Clements Library. Talk by George Washington University history professor Phillip Troutman. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. Noon–1 p.m., Clements Library, 909 S. University. Free, preregistration requested at Clements.umich.edu. 765–2347.

★**"Debussy: Making Sound Visible":** First Baptist Church Coffee Break Concert Series. Moody Bible Institute (Chicago) piano teacher Hyewon Jung performs Debussy's *Children's Corner* suite,

Dec. 8: **"A Christmas Story"** (Bob Clark, 1983). Delightful, affectionate memoir of a 1940s childhood and the quest for a BB gun. Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon. Free. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 9: **"Stop Making Sense"** (Jonathan Demme, 1984). Exuberant Talking Heads concert film regarded by many as the best concert film of all time. 7 p.m.

Dec. 10: **"Autonomy"** (Alex Horowitz, 2019). Documentary about the development of self-driving cars. Malcolm Gladwell. Followed by a discussion with U-M computer science & engineering professor Benjamin Kuipers. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 11: **"No Small Matter"** (Jon Siskel, Daniel Alpert, & Greg Jacobs, 2019). Documentary exploring the impact of high quality preschool care. Youth age 18 & under, free. 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 15: **"Elf"** (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who goes to NYC to reunite with his biological father. James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen. Free. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 16: **"Jimi Hendrix: Electric Church"** (John McDermott, 2015). Documentary about the Jimi Hendrix Experience's involvement as the headliner of the 2nd Atlanta International Pop Festival. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 22: **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Sentimental classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. Free. 1:30 p.m.

State Theatre. For complete, updated schedules, see StateTheatreA2.org, AnnArborObserver.com, or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$10.50 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$8.50; MTF members, \$8; weekdays before 6 p.m., \$7). Times (unless otherwise noted): TBA.

Dec. 13: **"Black Christmas"** (Sophia Takal, 2019). Slasher mystery about college girls vs. a stalker. 11 p.m.

Opens Dec. 19: "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" (J.J. Abrams, 2019). *Star Wars* sequel. 6:15, 7, 9:30, & 10:10 p.m.

U-M Film, TV, and Media Department. FREE. 764–0147. Angell Hall Aud. A, 435 S. State.

Dec. 13: **Lightworks Festival.** Screening of short films in various genres that are the culminating term projects for U-M film students. 6:30 p.m.

his 2nd book of *Images*, and *Prelude no. 4* from his 1st book of preludes. Refreshments. 12:15 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663–9376.

★**"Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging":** Ikebana International. A certified instructor introduces this Japanese art of flower arranging. 1–2:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$20 materials fee, metered parking. Space limited, preregistration required by Nov. 28. a2ikebana@gmail.com

★**"Open Lab: Raspberry Pi, Laser Engraving, and Letterpress":** Ann Arbor District Library. Three hours of open access to the AADL Raspberry Pi (small, single-board computers), vector graphics, laser engraving, letterpresses, and other tool labs. 6–8 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.

★**"Cheese & Beer":** Zingerman's Creamery. Staffers discuss and offer taste samples of beers paired with artisan cheeses. Bread & other accompaniments. 6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$45, preregistration required. 929–0500.

★**"We Must Work Off Our Surplus Animal Spirits":** 19th-Century Origins of Athletic Competition at the University of Michigan: U-M Bentley Historical Library. Talk by Bentley athletics archivist Brian Williams. 7 p.m., Ford Presidential Library, 1000 Beal Ave. Free. 764–3639.

★**Out Loud Chorus:** Ann Arbor District Library. Paul Clark directs this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in a program suitable for all ages. 7–8 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby. Free. 327–4200.

★**"Cheers to Michigan! Craft Cocktail Evening":** Michigan Radio. Michigan Radio Cheers hosts Lester Graham and Tammy Coxen discuss the regional craft cocktail scene and some unique cocktail recipes from their new book *Cheers to Michigan: A Celebration of Cocktail Culture and Craft Distillers*. 7–9 p.m., The Circ Bar, 210 S. First St. Tickets \$70 (includes a copy of the book, 2 featured drinks, & hors d'oeuvres buffet) & \$50 (includes everything but the drinks) in advance at Michigan-Radio.TicketLeap.com/Cheers-To-Michigan, and (if available) at the door. 764–9210.

★**"Story Night":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members host a storytelling program. Audience members are encouraged to bring a 5-minute story to tell. This is the last performance until March 2020. 7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. AnnArborStoryTelling.org

"Open Mike & Share Poetry Series": Bookbound. Readings of short essays and writings by current and former prison inmates, all contributors to the **U-M Prison Creative Arts Project Review of Prison Creative Writing**. Preceded by an open mike. 7 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369-4345.

"Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn, including some from the Threshold Choir repertoire. No experience necessary. 7-8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport. Free. 646-7405, (313) 204-0660.

"18th Annual Clown Show": U-M Theatre Department. The students in U-M theater professor Malcolm Tulip's physical theater class (also known as "clown class") present their final performance of clown duets and solos, many of which involve audience participation. 7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin. Free. 763-5213.

"Home for Christmas": Ypsilanti Community Choir. Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir, accompanied by the **Depot Town Big Band**, in an eclectic program of seasonal choral music and big-band favorites. Preconcert and intermission music by the local jazz quartet **BDQ**. 7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River. Free. 481-9285.

Al Jackson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 12-14. This 7th-grade teacher-turned-comic is a ubiquitous presence on both MTV and Comedy Central who's known for edgy, hard-nosed observational humor delivered with a laid-back swagger and a beaming smile. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance before 5 p.m. the night of the show; \$12 (Thurs.) & \$16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M piano students perform classical chamber works TBA. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free, donations accepted. 769-2999.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

13 FRIDAY

"Felt Ball Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library. Local crafter Beth Battey shows how to make a felt ball using cotton roving, soap, and water. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327-4200.

"Race, Gender, and Feminist Philosophy": U-M Women's Studies Department. Talk by California State University philosophy professor Talia Mae Bettcher. 3-5 p.m., 1171 Angell Hall, 435 State. Free. 615-6613.

"Jinx It!": The Neutral Zone. Local high school students present a curated multimedia exhibit of their interpretations of folklore. Live screenprinting demo. 3-6 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214-9995.

19th Annual Holiday Show & Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery. Dec. 13-15. Show and sale of works by local ceramics artists. Tonight: artists reception. Refreshments. 5-8 p.m. (Fri.), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Sat.) & 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sun.), Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914

7th Annual Holiday Pottery Sale: Clay Work Studio. Reception for this show and sale (see Galleries) of works by studio members, with beverages & snacks. 6-9 p.m., 2763 Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 604-7596.

"Euchre Change a Life!": Five-game euchre tournament. Come with a partner, or get paired with one at the event. Prizes. Quarters are collected each time a team gets euchred. Bring a snack to share, if you like; food & drink for sale. Proceeds benefit Haitian children. 6:30 p.m. sharp (check-in 5:45-6:15 p.m.), 242 Community Center, 648 S. Wagner. \$10 donation in advance at facebook.com/EuchreChangeALife; \$20 at the door. EuchreChangeALife@gmail.com

"Miniatures Painting: Winter Wonderland": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to learn how to paint a miniature figure for decoration, games, or hobbies. Bring a miniature, or choose one from the AADL selection. Painting materials provided. 6:30-8:30, AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm. & Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

"World Famous Trivia Night": Ann Arbor District Library. For adults. Prizes. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327-4200.

Game Night: Sweetwaters Downtown. Dec. 13 & 27. All invited to play card & board games. Bring your own game, or use one provided. 6:30-10:30 p.m., Sweetwaters, 123 W Washington. Free admission. 417-4266.

"Cheese & Honey Tasting": Zingerman's Creamery. Staffers discuss and offer tastings of honey paired with artisan cheeses. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$40, preregistration required. 929-0500.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Dec. 13 & 14. Boychoir music director John Boonenberg leads this local ensemble of boys ages 7-18, accompanied by First United Methodist Church organist Naki Sung-Kripfgans, in its 33rd annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the traditional processional "Once in Royal David's City," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day." Also, David Conte's "A Stable Lamp is Lighted," Mack Wilberg's raucous setting of "The 12 Days of Christmas," and William Horne's "While Shepherds Watched." The Boychoir's Treble Choir (ages 7-13) performs John Rutter's multi-movement cantata "Dancing Day," and other traditional carols with harpist Bethany Lancaster. Also, audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This concert usually sells out. 7 p.m. (Fri.), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart, & 3 p.m. (Sat.), First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets \$20 (students & seniors, \$15; youths 17 & under, free) in advance at BoychoirA2.EventBrite.com & Tickets@a2Boychoir.org, and at the door. 663-5377.

"Still Life with Iris": EMU Theatre Department. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Holiday Concert": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program of holiday favorites, upbeat contemporary tunes, as well as love ballads and gospels. With pianist Joshua Marzan. 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free, donations accepted. 665-9271.

"The Art of the Holidays": Washtenaw Community Concert Band. Chris Heidenreich conducts this 80-member ensemble in seasonal works ranging from "Mary's Boy Child" to "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "White Christmas." Refreshments. 7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. wccBand.org

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 7:30 p.m.

Comedy Night: Blom Meadworks. Stand-up showcase featuring sets by area comics Andrew Yang, Alex Bozinovic, Sam Rager, Keith Bergman, and Brandi Alexander, with jokes about everything from dating to mortality. 7:30 p.m., Blom, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, donations accepted. Facebook.com/DrinkBlom

Al Jackson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

"8th Annual Holiday Pops Concert": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Guest conductor Steven Jarvi leads the orchestra in a program of seasonal music. Featuring Duke Ellington's jazz interpretation of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, excerpts from the original, and a concluding performance of "Let There Be Peace on Earth." The orchestra is joined by the Pioneer, Huron, and Skyline high school choirs and the large local men's chorus *Measure for Measure*. Also, an appearance by Santa and a sing-along. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$15-\$57 (discounts for seniors & students) in advance at a2so.com & the AASO office (35 Research Dr., ste. 100), and (if available) at the door. 994-4801.

Katie Geddes and Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. Her repertoire includes songs by everyone from Buffy Sainte-Marie and John Prine to Michael Nesmith and Lennon & McCartney. The lineup also includes Claudia Schmidt, a longtime local favorite with both folk and jazz audiences, known for her strikingly luminous, warmly ingratiating voice. Also, veteran northern Michigan folksinger Sally Rogers, who has been praised by Peggy Seeger for her "clear, fluid, remarkably agile voice, keen sense of drama, and refreshing sense of fun." 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Tickets \$15 in advance and at the door. 665-8558.

The Frontier Barbershop Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. This Michigan-based group performs barbershop-style a capella renditions of jazz, pop, and showtunes. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20-\$40 (students, \$10) in advance at a2tix.com. 769-2999.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries": Kickshaw Theatre. Dec. 13-15, 21, & 22. Lynn Lammers directs Yianni Papadimos in actor Joe Mantello's one-man show, an adaptation of David Sedaris' popular comedic essay about the commercial excesses of the holiday season. A wannabe actor is stuck working as "Crumpet the elf" in Macy's department store for the holiday season. Cash bar. Ages 21 & up. 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Bobcat Bonnie's, 200 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Tickets \$30 (early bird



Merry Christmas!

11th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Show

Live from Briarwood Mall
JC Penney wing

Saturday, December 14 9AM-5PM
Rebroadcast on December 21 9AM-5PM

On Air at 1290 WLBY
Online at 1290WLBY.com
Produced by Lance & Erskine Communications

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price for first 20 tickets sold, \$15; VIP, \$50) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 203-0556.

"A Man for Christmas: A Made for TV Musical Parody": Neighborhood Theatre Group. Dec. 13-15. Kristin Anne Danko directs this local theater company in her and playwright A.M. Dean's Hallmark Christmas parody. It's about a single 20-something aspiring big-shot returning home for the holidays to celebrate the engagements of both her sister and dad. If she can win the affections of a local solo lad and make it into a triple engagement, then she'll have herself a Christmas for the books. For mature audiences. 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Black Office Studio, 13 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 in advance at m.bpt.me/event/4435329; \$12 at the door; students, \$7. (219) 201-6979.

"Pointless Improv Shows": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. Dec. 13, 14, 21, 27, 28. Comedic improv by experienced local performers. 8 & 10 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$15 (8 p.m.) & \$12 (10 p.m.). PointlessBrew.com, (989) 455-4484.

14 SATURDAY

"Gulls Galore at Salem Landfill": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS members Rob French and Mike Sefton led a trip (in WAS vans) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township to look for unusual species of gulls. Dress for the weather. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. or so, meet at the Park-n-Ride lot, Plymouth Rd. at US-23. \$5 minimum donation for van rental & fuel. Space limited to 22 seats, preregistration required at WashtenawAudubon.org.

"39th Annual Winter Festival": Rudolf Steiner School. Featuring an artisan market, toy room, puppet theater, bake sale, and kids activities, including jump rope winding and various crafts. New this year, a mini carnival with popcorn and games. Raffle. Lunch available; food vendors on site. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport. Free admission (fee for kids activities). 995-4141.

***11th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show.** Popular local radio personality Lance hosts a live broadcast of an old-fashioned radio variety show with performances by 35 local groups, including the **Dodworth Saxhorn Band**, **St. Francis Catholic Church handbell choirs**, the **Depot Town Big Band**, the **Ypsilanti Community Choir**, the **Women of Kerrytown Concert House**, the **Brain Plasticity Ukulele Collective**, and many more. The show is broadcast on 1290 WLBY and 1290WLBY.com. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Briarwood JCPenney wing. Free. 1290WLBY.com, 717-2182.

Craft & Vendor Show: St. Luke Lutheran Church. Sale by commercial vendors and local artisans of home goods, gift items, and handmade ornaments, scarves, hair accessories, clay pots, and more. Food & beverage for sale by local Boy Scouts. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Luke, 4205 Washtenaw. \$1 admission. 971-0550.

Christmas Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. Traditional Russian and American holiday sweets and other favorites from around the world. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd., Dexter. Free admission. 475-4590.

Huron Gun Collectors. Dec. 14 & 15. About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. Youth age 17 & under must be accompanied by an adult. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$5 (members, \$3; kids age 12 & under, free). (517) 546-4710.

9th Annual Friends at Front Porch Holiday Sale: Front Porch Fiber Studio. Dec. 14 & 15. Sale of decorative & wearable handwoven textiles, fine art, cards, and jewelry. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.) & noon-5 p.m. (Sun.), 1219 Traver. Free admission. 662-7134.

"Cheese 101": Zingerman's Creamery. Discussion & tasting of the 7 major varieties of cheese. With bread and other accompaniments. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$40, preregistration required. 929-0500.

***The Tiny Expo: Ann Arbor District Library.** Show and sale of holiday gifts by more than 40 local artists and crafters. Also, in the Secret Lab, craft activities for all ages including screen printing and button making. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby. Free admission. 327-4200.

***DIYpsi Holiday Market.** Dec. 14 & 15. Over 90 area artists and crafters show and sell their paintings, jewelry, clothing, glass, soaps, baked goods, and more. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (Sat.) & noon-6 p.m. (Sun.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free admission. DIYpsi.com, DIYpsiFair@gmail.com

***13th Annual Artists Holiday Studio Sale: Kate Tremel & Friends.** Dec. 14 & 15. Show and sale of works by local artists, including book arts by Jean Buescher Bartlett, ceramics by John Leyland and Ben Teague, silk and wool wearables by Michelle Montour, and porcelain works by Kate Tremel. Noon-5 p.m., Tremel residence, 627 Gott St. Free admission. 709-4899.

"Holiday PopShop": King of Kings Lutheran Church. Sale of handmade gifts, soaps, specialty foods, and more. Noon-5 p.m., King of Kings, 2685 Packard. Free admission. 255-0118.

***Open Studio & Art Sale.** Dec. 14 & 15. Show and sale of drawings, paintings, and prints by local artists **Helen Gotlib** and **Dylan Strzynski**. Also, a chance to look at their works in progress. Noon-6 p.m., 7281 Toma Rd., Dexter. Free admission. HelenGotlib@gmail.com

***Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. 1-4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, donations accepted for music scholarships. 678-7549, 663-0262.

"Christmas at Rentschler Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. Dec. 14 & 15. A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas, with natural decorations. Also, a visit from Santa and demos of a sock-knitting machine, quilting, and other crafts. Cookies & cider. Gift shop. 1-4 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Pay what you can. SalineHistory@Frontier.com, 944-0442.

***"Nature Explorers: Signs of Winter": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** A chance to look for and learn about winter in the forest. For ages 5 & 6. 1-2 p.m., Burns-Stokes Preserve, Zeeb Rd. at the Huron River just south of Huron River Dr. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. 971-6337.

***"Saturday Sampler": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Dec. 14, 21, & 28. Docent-led tours of the museum, including one of the current exhibit **Graffiti as Devotion along the Nile** (Dec. 14). Dec. 21 & 28 tours TBA. 2-3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764-9304.

***"Learn Calligraphy: Introduction to Versals": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local calligraphy instructor Scott Wettlaufer demonstrates the beginning techniques of this letterform used in many old manuscripts and posters today. 2-4 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327-4200.

"The Nutcracker Suite and Spirit of the Season": Ann Arbor Dance Classics. Dec. 14 & 15. Young local dancers perform excerpts of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet, plus their original one-act show. 2 p.m., Milan High School Performing Arts Center, 200 Big Red Dr., Milan. Tickets \$15 in advance by phone, \$18 at the door. 302-4248.

54th Annual Community Messiah Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 40 to 50 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 1:30 p.m. Drinks provided; bring goodies to share. 2-5 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. \$5 suggested donation to help defray the cost of using the building. Prospective orchestra members should contact Carey Jones at cwjones321@yahoo.com.

"A Child's Christmas in Wales": Michigan Irish Repertory Theatre. Dec. 14 & 15. David Kiley directs this local company in a performance, presented in the style of a BBC Wales radio show, of Dylan Thomas's nostalgic story recalling his boyhood holiday experiences. Described by the *New York Times* as "a caroling session sprinkled with occasional reminiscences." With Welsh cakes and hot cider. 2 p.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. & 3 p.m. (Sun.), Michigan League Hussey Rm., 911 N. University. Tickets \$15 in advance at a2tix.com and (if available) at the door. 276-7183.

"Still Life with Iris": EMU Theatre Department. See 6 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

***Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics.** The U-M men's gymnastics team, a perennial national power that has won 3 NCAA national championships in the past 9 years, prepares for the 2020 season with an intrasquad meet. 3 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

***Voices Valiant.** Norma Freeman directs this U-M-based choir for adults age 50 & up. Program TBA. 3 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin. Free. 615-3204.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries": Kickshaw Theatre. See 13 Friday. 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.

***Detroit Handbell Ensemble: First Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Brenda Austin directs the ensemble in seasonal works. 4 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 665-6158.

***"Holiday Hustle": Running Fit.** Competitive 5-km run/walk with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories. Medals for all finishers. Knit beanies for all participants. Proceeded at 4 p.m. by a 1-mile fun run. 4:30 p.m., Monument Park, downtown Dexter. \$39 (fun run, \$29; fun run age 17 & under, \$19) through noon on Dec. 12; \$45 (fun run, \$35; fun run age 17 & under, \$25) on race weekend. Preregistration available at RunHoliday5k.com. 929-9022.

"The Nutcracker": Academy of Russian Classical Ballet. Faculty and students from this suburban Detroit ballet school join international professional ballet dancers for a performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. 6:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$35-\$45 in advance at TicketMaster.com and at the door. (248) 982-7882.

"Holiday Ballroom Dance": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation. Ballroom dancing to recorded music led by local dance instructor Sue Barcis. No partner necessary. 7-9:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Community Center, 701 Ellsworth. \$5 at the door only. 822-2120.

"The Kerrytown Concert House Holiday Radio Hour Variety Show": Kerrytown Concert House. KCH artistic & executive director Monica Swartout-Bebow & board member Ryan MacKenzie Lewis host a night of performances by 20 local artists, including Americana rock singer-songwriter Adam Plomaritas and vocalists from the popular KCH *Wine, Women, and Song* jazz, classical, and cabaret music concert series. 7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20-\$40 (students, \$10) in advance at a2tix.com. 769-2999.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Dec. 14 & 15. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in Dance Alliance's 21st annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. Also, at 1 p.m. on Sun., tea with the cast (tickets \$20 in advance only by phone). 7 p.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sun.), Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets \$15 in advance at Dance Alliance & The Dancer's Boutique, and at the door. 429-9599.

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. See 7 Saturday. 7 p.m.

Winter Showcase: Salto Dance Company. This U-M student dance troupe performs student-choreographed pieces in a variety of styles, including classical ballet, jazz, and modern dance. 7 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. \$10 (students, \$8; kids age 11 & under, free). SaltoDance@umich.edu

Dance Manchester: Riverfolk Music and Arts Organization. Contra & square dancing to live music by the **Corn Potato String Band**, a Detroit trio whose repertoire of traditional Appalachian folk music ranges from ballads and Southern gospel to "hoedowns" and country rags. 7:30 p.m., Blacksmith Shop, 324 E. Main, Manchester. \$10 suggested donation. 223-6876.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance Party: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Megan Wilson leads contras to live music by the Time Travelers. All dances taught; no partner needed. Wear loose fitting clothing and flat non-slip shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a beginner lesson. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Pay what you can, \$10 suggested. 945-1343.

Al Jackson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

"19th-Century Time Travelers Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Various 19th-century dances, including those from Old Vienna, Paris, Prague, the Orient, or Scotland. With live music by the veteran local trio Childgrove. Period costumes of all sorts encouraged. All dance levels welcome. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. 7:45-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$30 (includes lessons); preregistration requested (& tips on 19th-century ball etiquette available) at VintageDance.com/vict-ball.htm. 769-0041.

Step Into the Light Fundraiser: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Café 704. An evening of songs and stories. The local singer-songwriter duo of guitarist **Alaura Massaro**, the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth music director, and multi-instrumentalist **Layla Ananda** perform covers and original tunes, accompanying themselves on guitar, piano, & dulcimer, and local poet-storyteller **Jill Halpern** tells stories that celebrate community and our shared humanity. Also, an Artisan Craft Show (7:30-10 p.m.) with handmade jewelry, quilted bags, pottery, photography, & more for sale. 8-10 p.m. Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$15 suggested donation. 327-0270.

Taylor Mac: Michigan Musical Society. This acclaimed cabaret singer who performs in glittery, over-the-top drag presents his new show "Holiday

Sauce." It's an alternative version of holiday sentimentality told through a gleefully subversive mash-up of performance art and song about Santa's lap, traditional nativity scenes, consumerism, & more. More than lipgloss and glamour, Mac's performances are praised for exceptional wit and intelligence. 8 p.m. (Sat.) & 4 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets \$40-\$81 (students, \$12-\$20) in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available), at the door. 764-2538.

"A Man for Christmas: A Made for TV Musical Parody": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 13 Friday. 8 p.m.

15 SUNDAY

***"Homegrown at the Cobblestone": CS2 Productions.** Show and sale of fine arts and crafts by Michigan artists. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. (248) 875-7226.

***"Hanukkah Celebration": Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited to this celebration, including latkes, dreidels, and a bazaar with gently used items for sale. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free. 975-9872.

"The Nutcracker": Fathom Events. Rebroadcast of the **Bolshoi Ballet** production of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet with classic choreography by Yuri Grigorovich. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. 12:55 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), Emagine (1335 E Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets \$15-\$18 in advance at FathomEvents.com/Events and at the door. 623-7469 (Quality 16), 973-8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316-5500 (Emagine).

***"Chesstastic": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to drop in and play chess. 1-4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. 327-4200.

***Holiday Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** Performances to holiday music by the club's synchronized skating team **The Hockettes**, freestyle & ice dance competitors, and other club skaters. 1:15-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free (bring a canned food item to donate to Food Gatherers). 213-6768.

"Home for the Holidays Cabaret": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Family holiday cabaret with holiday and Broadway music by AACT performers. Cookies and a hot chocolate bar. 1:30 p.m., A2CT Studio, 322 W. Ann. Tickets \$15 in advance at a2ct.org and at the door. 971-2228.

***"Take Your Pick: Collecting Found Photographs": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current historical exhibit of amateur photography. 2-3 p.m., meet in the UMMA forum, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

***Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the Celtic primal mother and father deities, Danu and Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Followed by a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. 2-5 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. 277-1897.

***"Winter Trees": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike to learn how to identify Michigan tree species in the winter. 2-4 p.m., meet in north parking lot of Sharon Mills County Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd. Free. 971-6337.

***"Festive Flowers and Foliage": Ann Arbor District Library.** Livonia-based writer Lisa Eldred Steinkopf, author of *Houseplants: The Complete Guide to Choosing, Growing, and Caring for Indoor Plants*, will discuss the tricks of keeping holiday plants alive. 2-3 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327-4200.

***"Small: A Big Look at Little": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Reception for this new temporary exhibit (see Galleries), with a video-based performance by U-M art school grad **Bridget Quinn** and live music by the local experimental ambient group **Virago**. Refreshments. 2-4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission, metered parking. 647-7600.

"All About the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio in jazz standards and holiday music in the style of George Shearing, Milt Jackson, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. With guest vibraphonist Cary Kocher. 2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20-\$40 (students, \$10) in advance at a2tix.com. 769-2999.

"The Nutcracker Suite and Spirit of the Season": Ann Arbor Dance Classics. See 14 Sat. 2 p.m.

"A Man for Christmas: A Made for TV Musical Parody": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown, 343 S. Fifth Avenue: *Inspired by Paradigm Quilters* (Dec. 3-Jan. 19, 3rd fl. exhibit space). Textile-based work by members of this group of Michigan artists; *Ann Arbor Register: September 24, 1891* (Dec. 11-Feb. 18, Multipurpose Rm.). Brief items from the archives of this late 19th-century weekly newspaper; *Classic Gaming* (Dec. 12-Feb. 13, lower level display cases). Classic 80s & 90s gaming systems. Mon. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., noon-6 p.m.; Dec. 31, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; closed Dec. 24 & 25. 327-4555.

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 2nd fl. Firehouse Gallery, 220 E. Ann. *A World Without Ice* (through Jan. 5). Multi-media exhibit exploring our relationship to ice and its role in our environment. Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tues., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m.; Dec. 31, noon-5 p.m.; closed Dec. 24 & 25. 995-5439.

EMU IGG Gallery, 236 Student Center, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Annual Print Swap* (Dec. 2-13). Thirty-four mixed-media prints (from 3D & traditional block prints to photographs) by EMU students. Reception Dec. 2, 5:30-7 p.m. Raffle of a bundle containing one copy of each print. Mon. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri. 3-5 p.m. closed Dec. 21-31. 487-0465.

Clay Work Studio, 2763 Plymouth. *7th Annual Holiday Pottery Sale* (Dec. 1-31). Works by studio members. Reception Dec. 13, 6-9 p.m. Mon.-Wed., & Fri. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thurs. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; & Sun. noon-5 p.m.; closed Dec. 25. 604-7596.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals), 1500 E. Medical Center. *Main Hospital* (Dec. 16-Mar. 6): *Healing Power of Nature* (main lobby fl. 1). Abstract fractal-based paintings & sculptures by Detroit-born Allison Svoboda; *Fortification Series* (main corridor, fl. 2). Handmade paper works based on Moroccan architectural ruins by NYC artist Garry Grant; *Cages, Nests, & Butterflies* (main corridor, fl. 2). Paper nests made by NYC artist Anne Bae. **Taubman Center:**

(Dec. 16-Mar. 6): *The Whimsical World of Greg Potter* (north lobby, fl. 1). Surreal, boldly-colored animal paintings by Indiana-based artist Potter; *Hats & Fascinators* (north lobby, fl. 1). Exhibit featuring head fashion made by area milliner Luke Son; *High School Photo Project* (south lobby fl. 1). Portraits of Chicago-based high school seniors next to a quotation that speaks to their identity, by school teacher & social worker Linda Erf Swift; *Shrines & Reliquaries: Memorializing Climate* (south lobby, fl. 1). Mixed-media boxes representing remote and environmentally vulnerable places by artist Leslie Sobel. **Rogel Cancer Center: Willow Run & The Homefront During WWII** (Dec. 21-Mar. 8, Connector Alcove, fl. 2). Exhibit of artifacts from the Willow Run bomber plant & area WWII aviators; *Fractured History: Digital Art on Canvas* (fl. 1). Digital & mixed-media works that combine themes of music, diversity, and the search for love by U-M music prof Aaron Dworkin. Daily 8 a.m.-8 p.m. (except Cancer Center, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) 936-ARTS.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. *Intriguing People On Our Planet* (Dec. 8-Jan. 17). Photographs reflecting the diversity of people around the world by retired JCC director Nancy Margolis. Reception Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Dec. 24 & 31 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; closed Dec. 25; call for after-hours times. 971-0990.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *The Artists' Eye* (Dec. 4-Jan. 12). Works by local artists: Angie George's photography, Linda Heckenkamp's ceramics, Valerie Mann's mixed media, and Laura Seligman's fiber & paintings. Reception Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts; closed Dec. 24 & 25. 769-2999.

U-M Hatcher Graduate Library, Rm. 100 (enter from the Diag). *Envisioning Religion in Hamtramck* (through Jan. 5). Photographs depicting this multi-ethnic and multi-faith Detroit-area community by Michigan-based artist Razi Jafri. Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-midnight, Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m.-midnight; Dec. 7

10 a.m.-6 p.m., Dec. 14 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Dec. 23 & 24 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; closed Dec. 21 & 22, and 25-31. 764-0400.

U-M Connections Gallery, North Campus Research Complex, 2800 Plymouth, Building 18 (near the tunnel). *Greetings From...* (through Dec. 13). Acrylic and watercolor landscape paintings by Michigan-based artist Alli McPhail. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. serrag@med.umich.edu, 936-3326.

U-M Rotunda Gallery, North Campus Research Complex, 2800 Plymouth, Building 18 lobby. *Advice to Polonius* (through Dec. 13). Abstract sculptures assembled from found materials by Detroit-based artist Al Herbert. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or by appointment. serrag@med.umich.edu, 936-3326.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *Small: A Big Look at Little* (Nov. 30-Jan. 5). Multimedia works by 28 area artists on the theme "small." Also, a panel display of the Garden's heritage seed collection, plus terrariums, bonsai, and Japanese-inspired "viewing stones." Reception Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m. Mon., Tues., & Thurs.-Sun. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; closed Dec. 24, 25, & 31. 647-7808

U-M Residential College Art Gallery, 701 East University. *Arts Student Invitational* (Dec. 6-15). Works by U-M students in RC studio art semester-long courses—photography, drawing, ceramics, large-format photography, and furniture. Reception Dec. 6, 4:30-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 762-0032.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *Art for the Holidays* (through Dec. 28). Multi-media works by WSG members and 8 visiting artists, as well as gift items by 32 invited artists. Reception Dec. 6, 7 p.m.-midnight. Mon.-Wed., noon-6 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat., noon-9 p.m., Sun., noon-5 p.m.; Dec. 24 & 31, noon-5 p.m.; closed Dec. 25. 761-2287.

North 22 Gallery, 22 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Alberto Rojo: Sketches & Travel Logs* (Dec. 6-Jan. 4). Pen, ink, and watercolor sketches of urban landscapes and people in public places by Oakland University physics professor Rojo. Reception Dec. 6, 7-10 p.m. By appointment only. gallery@22north.org, (501) 454-6519.

anthems and carols. 7 p.m., West Side UMC, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 663-4164.

16 MONDAY

"Zingerman's Southside Selects": Zingerman's Creamery, Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzwieg and staffers from all 3 of its southside businesses—the Creamery, Bakehouse, and Coffee Company—discuss and offer taste samples of their products, tell favorite food production stories, and talk about their latest ideas. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$50, preregistration required. 929-0500.

"Desserts by Decade: The Fabulous 1950s!": Ann Arbor District Library. Local historian Patti Smith discusses regional 1950s history, and The Lakehouse Bakery (Chelsea) owner Keegan Rodgers shares popular 1950s recipes. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327-4200.

17 TUESDAY

"Hanukkah Sing-Along": Jewish Community Center. Families invited to a pizza dinner, followed by song and dance led by local PJ Library professional Jessica Gillespie and guitarist Jessie Feazel. 5:45-7 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. \$5 per person. 971-0990.

"Art From Around the World: Optical Art": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to learn the basic principles of geometric art and make your own designs. 6-8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

Polka Jam Session. All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. 7-9 p.m., American Legion Hall, 44 Wabash St., Milan. Free. 529-3903.

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. See 3 Tuesday. Tonight's theme: "Names." 7:30 p.m.

18 WEDNESDAY

"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 p.m.

"Smell & Tell: Helen Keller's Smelling Session with Michel Pasquier": Ann Arbor District Library. Local flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning flavor and fragrance blog Glass Petal Smoke, discusses and offers smell samples of single floral notes and finished fragrances that were used during a smelling session with a small group of women, Keller included, in 1950. 6:30-8:45 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327-4200.

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"The Santaland Diaries": Kickshaw Theatre. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

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"The Nutcracker Suite and Spirit of the Season": Ann Arbor Dance Classics. See 14 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. See 7 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. See 14 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"Drop-in Fiber Lab": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to bring fiber art projects to work on. 3-5 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

Menorah Building Workshop: Chabad House. All invited to make a menorah. Materials provided. 3-5 p.m., Home Depot, 3300 Carpenter. Free. 995-3276.

Contact Improv. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. 3-5 p.m., SOMA, 218 N. 4th Ave. \$5-\$10, or pay what you can. (248) 505-4674, (313) 585-2598.

"Songs of Change": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Karen TenBrink directs the 100+ member chorus in a program that explores social justice themes that's highlighted by a performance of Craig Hella Johnson's "All of Us" with the Out Loud Chorus of Ann Arbor. Also, Jake Runestad's "Let My Love Be Heard," Andre Thomas's "Keep Your Lamps" and Pasek & Paul's "You Will Be Found." 3 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 994-2300.

"The Sultan's Holiday Concert": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite *Scheherazade*, Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival*, Franz Gruber's "Stille Nacht!" and selections from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. The symphony is joined by the Washtenaw International High School Orchestra in Anderson's "Sleigh Ride." The WIHI also performs its own set, directed by WIHI music teacher Brooke Pierson. 3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$12 (seniors age 65 & older, students with ID, & kids under age 12, \$6; family, \$30) in advance at YpsilantiSymphony.org and at the door. 507-1451.

"Holiday Stroll": Zingerman's Cornman Farms. All invited to sip hot cocoa and eat light refreshments while strolling the decorated grounds of Cornman Farms' 19th-century house. Also, cash bar with mulled wine and other alcoholic drinks. 4-6 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. \$20 (kids, \$10, kids under 2, free), preregistration required. 619-8100.

Community Gathering: Bike Alliance of Washtenaw. Casual social meetup to talk about bikes, upcoming events, and advocacy. All welcome. 4 p.m., Blom Meadows, 100 S. 4th Ave. Free. BikeWashtenaw.org

"Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce": Michigan Musical Society. See 14 Saturday. 4 p.m.

"Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. 4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Orchestra. This volunteer ensemble, conducted by Livingston Symphony Orchestra director David Schultz, is joined by the Dexter High School Concert & Chamber Orchestras for a festive holiday program highlighted by the rousing "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*. 4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 546-7115.

"Community-Wide Holiday Sing": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorus. New director Darnell Ishmel leads this popular local choir in Christmas spirituals and works by African American composers. Community members invited to participate (for rehearsal schedule, see OurOwnThing.org). 4 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence. Free, donations welcome. 769-4437.

Christmas Choir Concert: Northside Community Church. Performances by the church's chancel and bell choirs (directed by Sheree and Paul Clark), as well as U-M grad students (soprano Chase Warren, baritone Jack Williams III, and pianist Mahour Arbaian), in a program of vocal and instrumental holiday music, along with spirituals. With pianist Kathryn Goodson. Reception follows. 6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free, donations accepted for a local nonprofit. 662-6351.

"Lessons and Carols": West Side United Methodist Church. Maggie Burk directs the church choir and guest singers in this traditional English service, in which scripture readings alternate with seasonal

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Key to Locations

AADL: Ann Arbor District Library 327-4200. Events (all free) offered at **Downtown** (343 S. Fifth Ave.), **Westgate** (Westgate shopping center), **Traverwood** (3333 Traverwood), **Malletts Creek** (3090 E. Eisenhower), and **Pittsfield** (2359 Oak Valley) branches.

AAHOM: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. 995-9439. All events free (except as noted) with regular admission: \$12.50 (members & kids under age 2, free).

HSHV: Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. Events also hosted at **Tiny Lions Lounge & Adoption Center** (5245 Jackson, ste. A1). hshv.org, 661-3575.

LSNC: Leslie Science & Nature Center, programs temporarily off site at Gallup Park (3000 Fuller Rd), except as noted. \$5 per kid (members, \$4), adults & kids under 12 months, free. 997-1553.

Nicola's: Nicola's Books. Westgate shopping center. Free events. 662-0600.

WCPARC: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Free events (except as noted). Preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. 971-6337.

Every Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 15 (11 a.m. & 3 p.m.): **Science Forum Demos: U-M Natural History Museum.** Short hands-on demos for ages 5 & up. "How to Become a Fossil" (11 a.m.). Participants handle real fossils while learning how they form and how fossil casts are made. "Life: How Do We Find It?" (3 p.m.). Participants learn about what kinds of planets might support life. Natural History Museum, 1105 North University. Free. 764-0478.

Every Sun., except Dec. 8 & 22 (1-2 p.m.): **"Drawing for Kids": AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm.** Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a different directed drawing activity each week for kids in grades 1-5.

Daily through Dec. 24: **Santa: Briarwood Mall.** All kids invited to visit with Santa; photos available for purchase. Dec. 8 is **"Pet Photo Night"** (6-8 p.m.) for 4-legged, leashed, friendly pets that weigh less than 60 lbs. A session for **kids with special needs** is held before the mall opens on Dec. 1, 9-10:30 a.m.; preregistration required at Eventbrite.com (look for "Caring Santa"). Note: Santa takes breaks 1-2 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat. & 2-2:45 p.m. Sun. 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. (Dec. 1), 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Dec. 2-6), 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. (Dec. 7 & 9-12), 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 8), 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (Dec. 13), 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Dec. 15), 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (Dec. 14 & 16-23), 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 24), Briarwood Von Maur court. Free ("fast passes" to avoid lines available with photo package purchase at bit.ly/36DqzF). 769-9610.

Every Mon.-Thurs.: **"Playgroups for Babies": AADL.** Hour-long program for kids up to 24 months (with caregiver). No older siblings, please. Mon. 10:30 a.m. (Downtown); Tues., except Dec. 24, 10 a.m. (Malletts Creek); Wed., except Dec. 25, 11 a.m. (Pittsfield); Thurs. 2 p.m. (Westgate) & 6:30 p.m. (Malletts Creek).

Every Mon.-Fri.: **Preschool Storytimes: AADL.** Half hour program of stories and songs for kids ages 2-5 (with caregiver). Siblings welcome. Mon. 11 a.m. (Westgate & Malletts Creek); Tues., except Dec. 24, 10 a.m. (Downtown); Wed., except Dec. 25, 10 a.m. (Malletts Creek), 11 a.m. (Downtown), 1 & 6 p.m. (Westgate); Thurs. 7 p.m. (Pittsfield); Fri. 10 a.m. (Westgate & Pittsfield).

Dec. 1 (1-2 p.m.): **"Russian Stories and Songs": AADL Downtown Youth Story Corner.** Ann Arbor Russian School teacher Anya Krushelnitskaya uses hand puppets to act out Russian folk tales and sings Russian songs, accompanying herself on guitar. For babies & preschoolers.

Dec. 1 (2 p.m.): **"Kerry Tales: Be Nimble with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *Hollanders*, 410 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-3115.

Every Tues., except Dec. 24 (10-11 a.m.): **"Tummy Times": AADL Westgate.** New and expecting parents invited to discuss new baby experiences. Babies welcome.

Every Tues. (9:30 a.m.) & Sat. (10:30 a.m.), except Dec. 24: **"The Little Scientist Club": AAHOM.** Crafts, science-themed stories, and hands-on activities for young kids, accompanied by a parent. Geared toward kids ages 3-6; older siblings welcome.

Dec. 3, 10, & 17 (10-10:45 a.m.): **"Tiny Tails Storytime": HSHV.** Songs, stories, fingerplays, and interaction with adoptable cats. For kids ages 2-5 (with caregiver). At **Tiny Lions**. \$5 per child (babies under age 1, free).

Dec. 4, 11, & 18 (9:45-11:15 a.m.): **"Nature Tykes": LSNC.** Ages 4 & 5 invited for this preschool program that includes hikes, crafting, hands-on-experiments, and more. Child must be potty trained. \$33 (members, \$30), preregistration required by Nov. 29.

Every Wed. and Sun., except Dec. 15, 25, & 29 (10-11 a.m.): **"Nature Storytime": LSNC.** Kids ages 2-5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a program of stories and nature-based activities on different snow-related themes. Dec. 4: **"Brill! It's Cold!"** Dec. 8 & 11: **"Animal Prints."** Dec. 18: **"Snow Day!"** This theme may happen earlier if there is snowfall. Dec. 22: **"Winter Nap Time."**

Dec. 4 (5:30-6:30): **"Just for Older Kids: Explore the World of Chocolate": Zingerman's Delicatessen.** Staffers discuss how to conduct chocolate tastings, their favorite chocolate makers, and how different types of chocolate are made. Tastings. Geared towards kids ages 10-16. Zingerman's Deli Upstairs. 422 Detroit St. \$15 (parents welcome to lurk for free), reservations required. 663-3354.

Dec. 5 & 19 (10-10:40 a.m.): **"Yoga for Kids!": AADL Westgate.** A Super Fun Yoga Time (Pinckney) instructor leads grades preK-2 in some introductory poses.

Dec. 5, 12, & 19 (10:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Storytime": HSHV.** Stories, crafts, fingerplays, a tour of the adoptable cat area, and a dog meet and greet. For kids ages 2-5 (with caregiver). \$5 per child (babies under age 1, free).

Dec. 5-8 (various times): **"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater.** This award-winning local children's theater company performs Hilary Cohen's adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic about the transformation of crabbed old Ebenezer Scrooge after he's visited by 3 spirits on the night before Christmas. Appropriate for kids in grade 3 & up. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. 10 a.m. (Thurs. & Fri.), 12:30 p.m. (Fri.), & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$12-\$15 in advance at WildSwanTheater.org and at the door. 995-0530.

Dec. 5 (6-7 p.m.): **"Graham Cracker Gingerbread Houses": AADL Multipurpose Rm.** Grades K-8 invited to build a gingerbread house with icing, candy, and graham crackers.

Dec. 6 (10:30-11:15 a.m.): **"Sensation Stations": AADL Malletts Creek.** Toddlers ages 8 months-2 years (accompanied by caregiver) invited to scoop, pour, squeeze, and shake a variety of materials.

Dec. 6 (12:15-1:30 p.m.): **"Sleeping Beauty": EMU Music & Dance Department.** EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome-Wilkinson directs EMU students in her choreography of a 60-minute abridgement of Marius Petipa's 1890 ballet, with a live performance of the Tchaikovsky beloved score by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra.** This performance is for kids ages K-8. Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Free. Email chutch10@emich.edu to reserve seats.

Dec. 6 & 13 (5-9 p.m.): **"Pets and Pajamas Movie Night": HSHV.** Ages 5-11 invited to watch *The Secret Life of Pets* (Dec. 6) and/or *Shrek* (Dec. 13) and interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. \$35 (\$15 for each additional child). Preregistration required at hshv.org/petsandpjs.

Dec. 6 (5:30-10 p.m.): **"Parents' Night Out": LSNC.** All kids invited to engage with different science-based activities with LSNC and AAHOM staffers. Late night popcorn. Preregistration by Dec. 3 includes a Panera sandwich dinner box. AAHOM. \$35 (members, \$30).

Dec. 6 (6-8 p.m.): **"Daddy Daughter Luau": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation.** Girls ages 5-12, accompanied by a dad, grandfather, uncle, or other man, invited for dancing to recorded music. Light refreshments and a souvenir. Pittsfield Twp. Community Center, 701 Ellsworth. \$40 (Pittsfield Twp. residents, \$35), \$10 per additional girl. Preregistration required at Recreation.Pittsfield-MI.gov or at 822-2120.

Dec. 7 & 14 (9-10:30 & 10:45-12:15 p.m.): **"Pancakes with Santa": WCPARC.** Families invited to a pancake breakfast, followed by hot cocoa and a chance to meet Santa. Take-home craft & goody bag. Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. (Dec. 7) & Rolling Hills County Park, 7660 Stony Creek Rd, Ypsilanti (Dec. 14). \$10 per person. 971-6337.

Christmas-themed program, Aaron tells stories of his time with Jesus. 7-9 p.m., *Deep Spring Center*, 704 Airport Blvd. Free, donations accepted. 477-5848.

***Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss *The Shape of Water*, Andrea Camilleri and Stephen Sartarelli's 1994 detective mystery about the murder of a Sicilian politician. 7:30-9 p.m., *Motte & Bailey*, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

***"Winter Sing": Pioneer High School.** Steven Lorenz directs all of the PHS student choirs—5 cur-

Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, & 22: **"Santa Visits Kerrytown": Kerrytown Market and Shops.** All kids invited to visit with Santa. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (Sat.) & noon-3 p.m. (Sun.), Kerrytown Market & Shops upstairs. Free, non-perishable food donations for Food Gatherers welcome. 662-5008.

Dec. 7 (10-10:45 p.m.): **"Japanese Storytime": AADL Malletts Creek.** Local music teacher Momo Kajiwara tells stories and sings songs in Japanese. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Dec. 7 (10-11 a.m.): **"Sensory-Friendly Storytime": AADL Westgate.** Ages 3-7 invited to a program of 20 minutes of interactive stories, rhymes, & movement, followed by 40 minutes of free play.

Dec. 7 & 14 (10:30-11:30 a.m.): **"Chinese Storytime": AADL.** An AADL storyteller tells stories and sings songs in Mandarin. Also, a Chinese-themed craft. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome). AADL Downtown Youth Story Corner (Dec. 7) & AADL Malletts Creek (Dec. 14).

Every Sat. (11 a.m.): **Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-0846.

Dec. 7 (3 p.m.): **"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment.** Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. a free **Kids Open Stage.** Oz's, 1920 Packard. \$20 per family (free for first timers). 662-8283.

Dec. 8 (3 p.m.): **Okee-Dokee Brothers: Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just For Kids Series.** The entertaining Grammy-winning Minneapolis-based children's music singer-songwriter duo of childhood friends Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing performs original bluegrass- and folk-based Americana songs about folklore, the wonders and beauty of the seasons, and their month-long trips exploring nature. 3 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$15-\$25 in advance at MichiganTheater.org & at the door. 668-8397.

Dec. 8 (2-3:30 p.m.): **"Drop-in Minecraft": AADL Downtown Training Center.** Grades 3-8 invited to stop by to play this popular computer game. New & experienced players welcome.

Dec. 12 (4:30-6 p.m.): **"Coding Playground": AADL Downtown Training Center.** Grades 3-8 invited to build apps using Bitsbox, or work on their own project in their preferred coding language. No experience required.

Dec. 12 (6-7 p.m.): **"Kids in the Kitchen": AAHOM.** Members of the Junior League lead kids in grades K-4 (with caregiver) in science experiments that explore the vitamin and mineral content of food. Snacks & activities. \$15 (members, \$10). Preregistration required at aahom.org.

Dec. 14 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) & 15 (1-4 p.m.): **"Critters Up Close!": AAHOM.** Leslie Science & Nature Center staff show live **hawks & falcons.** Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. Note: On Saturday, a midday "Animal Naptime" break when the animals get tired.

Dec. 14 (11 a.m.): **Special Storytime: Nicola's Books.** A costumed Grinch reads Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Followed by a craft. Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

Dec. 14 & 29 (various times): **"Dancing Babies": AADL Pittsfield.** Infants ages 5 & under (accompanied by an adult) invited to a program of music and movement led by Music Together teacher Dianne Dudley (Dec. 14, 10-10:45 a.m.) and First Steps Washtenaw instructor Monica Higman (Dec. 29, 1-1:45 p.m.).

Dec. 15 (1-2:30 p.m.): **"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Kids invited to visit with Santa, make seasonal crafts, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. Photos with Santa available (bring your own camera). Also, all invited to enjoy a **spaghetti dinner** preceded by carols and crafts (4-6 p.m., \$12, students, \$9). Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$6 per person, preregistration required. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

Dec. 15 (1-3 p.m.): **"Winter Crafts": AADL Pittsfield.** Grades K-5 invited to drop in and make one or more winter crafts to take home.

Dec. 15 (2-4 p.m.): **Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange.** All kids, accompanied by an adult, invited for contra and square dancing to live music by Donna Baird, Fred & Nora Karsch, and Jim Horton. Carol Jacobs calls. Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$12 per family (members, free). 274-0773.

Dec. 15 (3-4 p.m.): **"Spanish Storytime": AADL Downtown Youth Story Corner.** Local writer & teacher Con-

suelo Digón tells stories and sings songs in Spanish. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Dec. 15 (4:30-6:30 p.m.): **"Frozen Pool Party": WCPARC.** Indoor pool party for kids, with cookie decorating and an appearance by Anna and Elsa of Frozen. Meri Lou Murray Rec Center, 2960 Washtenaw. \$8 per person. 971-6337.

Dec. 17 (Noon-2 p.m.): **Disney Junior Holiday Play Date: Briarwood Mall.** All kids invited to a Disney-themed holiday celebration, with face painting, balloon artists, a photobooth, coloring sheets, recorded and live music TBA, a holiday mobile take-home craft, and more. Briarwood Mall JCPenney Court. Free. 769-9610.

Dec. 19 (10-11 a.m.): **"Preschool Hike: Nature's Gifts": WCPARC.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads preschoolers, accompanied by a caregiver, on a hike to learn about signs of animal activity in the forest. 10-11 a.m., County Farm Park, 2230 Platt. 971-6337.

Dec. 20 (4:30-5:30 p.m.): **"Decorate A Nutcracker": AADL Pittsfield.** Grades K-5 invited to decorate your own wooden nutcracker ornament. Materials provided.

Dec. 21-Jan. 5, except Dec. 24 & 25 (Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. noon-4 p.m.): **"Hands-On Holidays: All About You!": AAHOM.** Family-friendly hands-on activities and demonstrations about biology and the human body. With live entertainment each day, including music, storytelling, and theater from performers TBA.

Dec. 21 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) & 22 (noon-4 p.m.): **"Pop-Up Makerspace": AAHOM.** Hands-on engineering activity. This month's challenge: **"Bridge Building!"**

Dec. 21 (2-3 p.m.): **"Star Wars Crafts": AADL Malletts Creek.** Grades K-5 invited to make some stellar crafts to celebrate the release of *Star Wars Episode IX*.

Dec. 21 (7:30-9:30 p.m.): **"Family Mew-vie Night": HSHV.** Screening of 2002 comedy *Ice Age*. Also, a chance to snuggle with adoptable cats. Popcorn, juice, and water. Kids must be accompanied by an adult (at least 1 for every 3 kids). Bring snacks, pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets, if you wish. Note: This event usually sells out. *Tiny Lions Center*, 5245 Jackson Rd., ste. A1. \$10. Preregistration recommended at TinyLions.org/MewVieNights.

Dec. 22 (2-3 p.m.): **"Penguin Awareness Day Craft": AADL Westgate.** Grades K-3 invited to make a penguin craft to celebrate these aquatic birds.

Dec. 22 (3-4 p.m.): **"Korean Storytime": AADL Pittsfield.** Korean-language songs, stories, and crafts. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Dec. 23 (2-3 p.m.): **"Kinetic Sandbox": AADL Downtown Secret Lab.** Grades K-5 invited to build and play with easy-to-mold Kinetic Sand.

Dec. 26 (2-3 p.m.): **"New Year Crafts": AADL Pittsfield.** Grades preK-3 invited to make a festive party hat and noisemaker.

Dec. 26 (2-3 p.m.): **"Watercolor for Kids": AADL Malletts Creek.** Grades K-5 invited to enjoy an hour of undirected watercolor painting.

Dec. 27 (2-3 p.m.): **"Unicorn Crowns": AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm.** Grades K-5 invited to make a unicorn crown.

Dec. 27 (2-3 p.m.): **"Paper Snowflake Puppets": AADL Pittsfield.** Grades K-5 invited to make these cut paper creations.

Dec. 28 (11 a.m.-noon): **"Arabic Storytime": AADL Malletts Creek.** Local Arabic teacher and storyteller Heba Abdelal tells stories and sings songs in Arabic. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Dec. 28 (1-2 p.m.): **"Mushroom Fairy House": AADL Westgate.** Grades K-5 invited to make a little fairy house.

Dec. 28 (1-2 p.m.): **"Star Wars Coloring Party": AADL Pittsfield.** Grades K-5 invited to listen to music while coloring.

Dec. 29 (1-2 p.m.): **"Pigstastic Storytime and Craft": AADL Westgate.** Grades preK-3 invited to listen to pig-related stories and make piggy crafts with an AADL librarian.

Dec. 30 (2-3 p.m.): **"Paper and Dough Circuits": AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm.** Grades K-5 invited to learn about electricity while making simple circuits with conductive tape and dough.

Dec. 31 (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.): **"Noon Year's Eve Party": AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm. & AADL Pittsfield.** Grades K-5 invited to listen to stories & music, play life-size games, and more.

"Comedy Rumble: Ladies Dancing": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Detroit comedian Brett Hayden hosts this contest with 90-second performances by 30 local women comedians. 7:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 in advance at etix.com and at the door. 996-9080.

"Mystic Nights at the Grotto": Zal Gaz Grotto. Hypnotist Misha Tuesday performs his one-man show, a self-described "blend of trickery, subtle psychology, and genuine intuition" that creates the illusion of telepathy and clairvoyance. Audience participation. 8:30 p.m., Grotto, 2070 W. Stadium. Tick-

***"Drumunity":** Local drummer & drum teacher Lori Fithian leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7-9 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room*, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

***"Christmas Stories": Channelled Spiritual Discussion Group.** All invited to discuss their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices. In this

ets \$13 in advance at MishaTuesday.com & \$15 at the door. 506-0650.

19 THURSDAY

★Homemade Treats Exchange: International Neighbors. All area women invited to bring a batch of 20 or more homemade cookies or treats. Socializing, refreshments. Child care available for kids age 5 & under. 1-2:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. International-Neighbors.org

★Family Food Tasting: Hanukkah Latkes & Author Reading: Zingerman's Delicatessen. Reading by local writer Lauren Ranalli, author of *The Great Latke Cook Off*. Also, Zingerman's staffer Jenny Hall and Zingerman's Deli chef Rodger Bowser discuss how to conduct latke tastings. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Zingerman's Deli Upstairs Next Door, 418 Detroit St. \$10 per person, preregistration required. 663-3354.

★History of Science Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss *Thomas Say: New World Naturalist*, Patricia Tyson Stroud's 1992 biography of this major figure in American entomology. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 19-21. This polished Grand Rapids comic, a contributing writer to *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, features unexpected takes on everything from marriage and raising kids to current events and ear hair. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance before 5 p.m. the night of the show; \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

★"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

20 FRIDAY

★"Holiday Bake Sale": New Grace Apostolic Temple. Dec. 20 & 21. Sale of homemade pies, cakes, cookies, dinner rolls, and more. Noon-6 p.m. (Fri.) & 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.), New Grace, 2898 Packard. Free admission. 477-6888.

★"Samuel Kidd: Youth and Love": Kerrytown Concert House. This Ann Arbor native, an award-winning baritone, performs a program, inspired by Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel*, of English art songs exploring themes of young love and loss of innocence. With pianist Bernard Tan. 2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$20-\$40 (students, \$10) in advance at a2tix.com. 769-2999.

★"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works. All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, whatever. Maker Works members and staff on hand to help and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. 4-6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. Free. 222-4911.

★Night Hike: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Hike in the dark, led by WCPARC naturalists. Followed by a bonfire and hot cocoa. Dress for the outdoors. 6-8:30 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. \$6 vehicle entry fee. 449-4437, ext. 203.

★Holiday Party: Pittsfield Union Grange. Potluck dinner followed by carols and small gift exchange (under \$10 or homemade). Bring a dish to pass. 6-10 p.m., Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 274-0773.

★"7th Annual Winter Solstice Sing-Along." All invited to a holiday-themed candlelit sing-along led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorzyczewski. 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Green Wood campus, 1001 Green Rd. Free. 426-7818.

★"The Chocolate Cake Sutra: Ingredients for a Sweet Life": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to join a discussion, led by Crazy Wisdom owner Bill Zirinsky, of Oregon-based Zen Buddhist dharma teacher (and former Ann Arborite) Geri Larkin's book. 7:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 7:30 p.m.

David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

★"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

21 SATURDAY

★74th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. Everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are

tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening at 5:30 p.m. 12:01 a.m. Visit WashtenawAudubon.org for contact numbers and event updates.

★Annual Christmas Get-Together: Great Lakes Orchids Judging. All invited to a potluck, orchid-related auction, and orchid judging. 11 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission, metered parking. 647-7600.

★Death Café. All invited to join a frank conversation about death. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Merilynne Rush and Diana Cramer. Tea & cake served. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 395-9660.

★"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. Dec. 21 & 22. 51st annual production of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet by this local company of nearly 100 local dancers, with guest dancers from the Boston Ballet. Directed by Sara Randazzo, Roya Panahi, and Christine Sampier. 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Power Center. Tickets \$10-\$25 in advance at a2tix.com and at the door. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. rdcTicketSales@gmail.com

★"The Santaland Diaries": Kickshaw Theatre. See 13 Friday. 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.

★"Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★"Cheese & Cider Pairing": Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's staffers discuss and offer taste samples of Michigan-made hard apple ciders paired with artisan cheeses. Age 21 & up. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$45, Preregistration required. 929-0500.

★Winter Solstice Sing: Michigan Friends Center. All adults and older children invited to join an outdoor circle to learn and sing seasonal songs, rounds, and chants. 7-9 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clark Lake Rd., Chelsea. Free (donations appreciated), preregistration requested. 475-1892.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Peter Baker calls to live music by Brad Battey & friends. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, clean shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson for beginners. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Union Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Pay what you can, \$10 suggested. 476-4650.

★"Trivia with Cats": Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center. All age 18 & older invited to play trivia and cuddle with adoptable cats. Drinks & popcorn. Admission includes 2 beer and wine tickets (age 21 & over only). Bring your own nonalcoholic beverages, if you wish. 7:30 p.m., Tiny Lions, 5245 Jackson Rd., ste. A1. \$15. Preregistration available at tinylions.org/trivia. 661-3575.

★"In Terra Pax": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this 24-voice local chamber choir in a program of English music, including assorted traditional English carols, Celia McDowell's Ave Maria, and 2 works featuring a string ensemble and guest baritone Robert Peavler, Vaughan Williams' jubilant *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax*, a setting of Robert Bridges' "Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913." 7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. Tickets \$20 (student & senior discounts available; kids 12 & under, free) in advance at a2tix.com. VocalArtsAnnArbor@gmail.com

★"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

★"Winter Solstice Meditation Concert": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Candlelit performance by local soprano Norma Gentile, who begins with sacred chants by Hildegard von Bingen, then improvises chants inspired by the energies in the room. 8-9:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$20 suggested donation. 327-0270.

★"Jason Dinnie & Friends": Stony Lake Brewing Acoustic Routes Concert. Acoustic ensemble led by singer-songwriter Dinnie, a highly regarded local acoustic fingerstyle guitarist and mandolinist who plays an eclectic brand of folk-based music in the tradition of John Fahey, Leo Kottke, and Michael Hedges. 8 p.m., Stony Lake Brewing, 447 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$15 at the door only. 316-7919.

22 SUNDAY

★"Felt Paw Print Ornaments": Ann Arbor District Library. All ages craft. Basic stitching knowledge required. 1-2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. 327-4200.

★"Electronics Lab: Introduction to Soldering": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make a simple soldered flashlight. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

★"Button Lab": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make button pins. Materials provided, or

bring your own image, 1.25-2.25 inches, to use. 2-3 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

★"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. See 21 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

★"The Santaland Diaries": Kickshaw Theatre. See 13 Friday. 2 p.m.

Open Stage: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. All performers invited to showcase their talents. 7:30 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Pay what you can. Sign up for an 8-minute spot at PointlessBrew.com. (989) 455-4484.

23 MONDAY

Hanukkah on Ice: Chabad House. Skating to Hanukkah music, crafts, donuts and latkes, and a giant ice menorah lighting. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. \$12 per person (families, \$40) includes skate rental. Preregistration required at JewMich.com/Events. 995-3276.

24 TUESDAY

★Living Nativity: First Congregational Church. Outdoor nativity with sheep and other live animals. Followed by a family Christmas pageant at 5:30; angel, shepherd, and other costumes available to borrow, all kids welcome to participate. 4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662-1679.

★Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carol singing led by the church's chancel choir. 5 & 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

★Christmas Tableau: Zion Lutheran Church. Dramatic staging of the nativity story with actors, narration, and an orchestra. 5 p.m., Zion, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 994-4455.

★Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church. A kid-friendly celebration of Christmas stories and music highlighted by a singing of "Silent Night" in the round. With pianist Martin Katz, tenor Glenn Perry, and others. 6 p.m., NCC, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662-6351.

★Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church. The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Kids welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663-9376.

★"Christmas Eve Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church's adult choir and Baroque Chamber Orchestra in Johann Kuhnau's *A Child is Born to Us*. Also, seasonal favorites by the handbell choir. 10 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

25 WEDNESDAY (CHRISTMAS)

26 THURSDAY

★"Zine Session": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make one of these home-made periodicals. 2-3 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

Rob Little: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 26-28. This very funny Detroit-area comic is a highly animated performer known for his fast-paced, self-deprecating observational humor about such matters as dieting, exercise, and girlfriends. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance before 5 p.m. the night of the show; \$12 (Thurs.) & \$16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

★"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. Dec. 26-29, & 31. Purple Rose founder & playwright Daniels is a veteran movie, TV, & Broadway star who's also a prolific singer-songwriter. He's returning to Purple Rose for a series of concerts showcasing folk-flavored, often comically accented favorites from his half dozen albums, including the recent *Simple Truths*. His performances are interspersed with chats about how each song came to be. 8 p.m. (Dec. 26 & 27), 2 & 8 p.m. (Dec. 28 & 31), & 7 p.m. (Dec. 29), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$75 (\$85 for Dec. 31 late show) in advance at PurpleRoseTheatre.org and by phone, and (if available) at the door. Discounts available for students, seniors, teachers, military personnel, and groups. 433-7673.

27 FRIDAY

★"Cheese & Charcuterie": Zingerman's Creamery. Staffers host a tasting of cured meats paired with artisan cheeses. Bread and additional accom-

paniments. 5-7 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$45, preregistration required. 929-0500.

★"Mittenfest" 826michigan. Dec. 27-29. All invited to this winter music festival featuring Michigan-based bands TBA. Proceeds to benefit local non-profit kids writing center 826michigan. 7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. \$10 per person. 761-3463.

★"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 7:30 p.m.

Rob Little: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 7:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

★"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Thurs. 8 p.m.

28 SATURDAY

★"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Thurs. 2 & 8 p.m.

★"Board Game Afternoon": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to play board games, including Oregon Trail, Ticket to Ride, Yeti in My Spaghetti, Dominion, Sushi Go, Stratego, Grand Austria Hotel, Space Team, & more. Bring your own, if you wish. 2:30-5:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

★"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★"Cheese & Wine Pairing": Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's staffers discuss and offer taste samples of wine paired with artisan cheeses. Age 21 & up. 6-8 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$45, preregistration required. 929-0500.

★Menorah Lighting: Chabad House. Lighting of an 8-foot tall menorah. Latkes, donuts, hot drinks, and glow-in-the-dark crafts. 7 p.m., Liberty Plaza, 310 S. Division St. Free. 995-3276.

Rob Little: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 7:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

29 SUNDAY

★"Thank You Card Party": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to write, draw, and decorate cards to send to family and friends. 1-3 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327-4200.

★"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client": The Arcadia Mixture Sherlock Holmes Club. All invited to discuss the Arthur Conan Doyle story in which Sherlock's mental prowess does him little good. 2 p.m., Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson. Free. rpl@umich.edu

★"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

★Menorah Lighting: Chabad House. Lighting of a menorah, with crafts, chocolate gelt, and a chance to take a photo with a dreidel mascot. 4 p.m., Briarwood Mall. Free. 995-3276.

★"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Thurs. 7 p.m.

30 MONDAY

★"Kitty Cat Sock Plushie": Ann Arbor District Library. All ages craft. Basic stitching knowledge required. 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327-4200.

31 TUESDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

★"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Thurs. 2 & 8 p.m.

★"New Year's Eve with Pete Siers": Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz ensemble led by veteran local drummer Siers, with clarinetist Dave Bennett and pianist Cliff Monear. 7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$30-\$75 (students, \$10) in advance at a2tix.com. 769-2999.

Kristin Key: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This Texas comic, who first gained national attention as a contestant on *Last Comic Standing*, is known for blending improvisation and physical comedy with winningly self-deprecating observational humor. Alcohol is served. 7:30 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$25 (7:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door; \$30 (10:30 p.m.) includes party favors & a glass of champagne at midnight. 996-9080.

★"New Year's Eve Improv Show": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. Comedic improv by experienced local groups in celebration of the holiday and Pointless' 4th anniversary. 10:30 show will incorporate the New Year's Eve countdown. 8 & 10:30 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets \$15 (8 p.m.) & \$18 (10:30 p.m.). PointlessBrew.com, (989) 455-4484.

Classifieds

Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

Get happy piano lessons for your child! Decades of training, experience, and performance. Two degrees in Music Education. For a free consult, call (734) 646-2740.

For Sale

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

Silver Spoon Antiques
42 N. Huron, Ypsilanti (734) 249-3419
JUST IN! A collection of 1920's and 30's Art Deco jewelry and 1940's hats. We have hundreds of pieces of antique and vintage jewelry from Victorian thru 1980's. We also carry other ladies items such as purses, gloves, compacts, and more. In business over 30 years. Open Wednesday-Sunday.

Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

ISPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 83? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

Services

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

Now serving the Ann Arbor area!
Dunham's Hauling. Hauling of all types: residential and commercial. Also, odd jobs. Dispose of your unwanted items. Same day service. Senior discount. Free estimates. Give us a call at (517) 784-5068.

Home

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

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Excellent References. (734) 644-4510

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Office: (734) 769-3175, Fax: (734) 769-3375
Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher



All new "Observer Friends" and FREE subscription confirmations received by **December 10** will be entered in a drawing for a **\$25 Gift Certificate** at your choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

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MARKET UPDATE - December 2019

Winter is here! The market is red-hot! My sales through the beginning of 2019 are the best I've ever had. Driven by demand to live in our wonderful community and outstanding neighborhoods, home values reached their highest level ever in many areas. 2020 will bring more of the same. Are you thinking of buying or selling? Call me today for a private consultation, 734-476-7100.

SELLERS - The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today. 734-476-7100.

BUYERS - Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search. 734-476-7100.

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FEATURED HOME



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath colonial is a rare find in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. Custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, open concept floor plan, family room with fireplace, all-hardwood flooring, dream master suite with vaulted ceilings and spa-like bath, great sized kids' bedrooms, and finished lower level with rec room, exercise, bedroom, and bath. \$1,345,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE - Incredible 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath custom-built home on a peaceful one-acre lot just minutes from schools and freeways. This home was built with only the finest materials and craftsmanship and has been perfectly updated. You will love this setting with great landscaping, large deck, and huge backyard. The interior is stunning with custom kitchen, paneled den, great room with fireplace, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished lower level with great rec space. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS - Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built home on one of the best lots in the neighborhood. This stately home rests at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac lot featuring great landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior is a showpiece. Highlights include cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, open family room with fireplace, sunroom, screened porch, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. You will love this home. \$879,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



RIDING OAKS - This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home by Toll Brothers rests on one of the best lots in this very popular west side neighborhood. You will love the setting on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with large deck, patio, fire pit, and huge backyard. The interior is stunning featuring a two-story foyer with dual sweeping stairs, two-story family room with stacked stone fireplace, open concept kitchen with maple cabinets and granite, and luxury master suite with sitting room, two walk-in closets, and great bath. \$849,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home with panoramic views of the #11 hole. This home is just stunning inside and out. The exterior features extensive landscaping, large deck, and screened porch. Interior highlights include family room with fieldstone fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and high appliances, luxury master suite with sitting room and spa like bath, and finished walkout basement. \$839,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NE ANN ARBOR - Stately 4-bedroom, 3-bath farmhouse on 10-acres just minutes from Ann Arbor, NCR, hospitals, and freeways. This is an incredible setting just outside the city with rolling land, historic barn, pond, and hay field. The interior of this home features a century old living room with tons of charm and character, family room with fireplace, large screened porch, nice master suite with attached bath, and 3 large kids' bedrooms. \$639,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



YORK WOODS - This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home rests on one of the most premium lots in the neighborhood. You will love this one acre setting backing to a beautiful wooded ravine with large patio and great landscaping. The interior is wonderful and includes large kitchen with granite counters, great room with fireplace, main level den, luxury first floor master suite with a brand new gorgeous remodeled bath, oversized kids' bedrooms, 2nd remodeled bath, and walkout basement. \$549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISITNG - SALINE SCHOOLS - Exceptional 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial on a peaceful one-acre lot in Lodi Township. Great setting just minutes to schools, shopping, and I-94. The lot is fantastic with mature trees, large backyard, and great deck. The interior has undergone significant renovation and features all-hardwood flooring on the main floor, remodeled kitchen with painted white cabinets and quartz counters, open concept family room, den, very nice master suite, and finished basement. \$449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



TORWOOD - Very nice 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built colonial in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home is fantastic inside and out. Enjoy the private backyard from the brick paver patio. Interior highlights include maple kitchen with granite counter tops, open concept family room with fireplace, main level den, great master suite with vaulted ceiling, nice sized kids' bedrooms, and finished basement with large rec room and full bath. \$449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

FEATURED HOME



ESTATE HOME – Incredible 5-bedroom, 3-bath, three ½-bath custom-built home on a 2.6-acre pond frontage lot in one of the area's most prestigious locations. This home was an entry in the 2001 Showcase of Homes tour, features a Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture, and only the finest materials. Highlights include imported stone exterior, all-hardwood floors on the main two floors, custom kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished lower level. Saline schools. \$1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS – This 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built estate is one of the finest homes in Ann Arbor. The 2-acre setting is breathtaking. The grounds include extensive landscaping, incredible outdoor living patios, and the finest pool you will see. The home was built to the highest standard of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Highlights include gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances, dramatic living spaces, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Incredible! \$1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



WOODLANDS OF GEDDES GLEN – Incredible 5-bedroom, 6 ½-bath custom-built home overlooking Radrick Farms Golf Course. This home was built to the highest standards. The setting is special with great outdoor living spaces. Interior highlights include gourmet kitchen with Wolf/Sub-Zero appliances, two-story great room, luxury master bedroom suite with sitting area, two walk-in closets, spa-like baths, and finished walkout basement! \$1,795,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NE ANN ARBOR – Stunning, custom-built 4-bedroom, 4-bath contemporary overlooking the Huron River Valley. This home was built to standards rarely seen in Ann Arbor. The best materials, design, and craftsmanship is evident inside and out of this true work of art. Highlights include wooded 2.3-acre lot, walls of glass that bring the outside in, light-filled great room, custom kitchen, and dream master suite. \$1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEWPORT HILLS – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods in Wines Elementary school district. Great setting on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with extensive landscaping and large paver patio. The interior is wonderful including two-story family room with stone fireplace, open concept kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury first floor master suite, main level den, great kids' bedrooms, and bonus room. \$1,090,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Spectacular, custom-built 6-bedroom, 4 ½-bath two-story on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has it all. Gorgeous 1.2 acre lot with extensive landscaping, large patio, and pond. The interior is stunning including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, family room with fireplace, screen porch, sunroom, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. \$982,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NE ANN ARBOR – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired contemporary home is a pure masterpiece of design and materials. Estate setting with 8-acres of the most beautiful land you will find. Includes extensive landscaping with a flowing stream, stone patio, and pond. The home highlights include soaring ceilings, dramatic slate fireplace, stone flooring, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout lower level. \$950,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CENTENNIAL PARK – This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two ½-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. \$799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



HIGHPOINT AT STONEBRIDGE – Incredible 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath detached condo overlooking the 17th fairway at Stonebridge. This is one of the finest condo options you will ever see in the Ann Arbor area. The interior space is dramatic and loaded with quality features and upgrades. Highlights include a panoramic golf course view, great room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, open concept kitchen with professional grade appliances, stunning sunroom, luxury first floor master suite, and finished basement. \$699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



TRAVIS POINTE – Incredible 5-bedroom, 3-bath, two ½-bath colonial in the area's premier Country Club neighborhood. The setting is wonderful including a 1.1-acre lot, golf views from the front, large deck, and patio. The interior is stunning. Highlights include all-hardwood floor on the main level, remodeled kitchen with granite, open family room with fireplace, sunroom, great master suite with updated bath, bonus room, and finished basement. You will love it! \$634,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



WATERWAYS – You will love this 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home located on a private wooded site in one of the area's most desired neighborhoods. The setting is wonderful with mature trees, great landscaping, and large deck. This home sparkles on the inside with two-story living, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, open concept floor plan includes family room with fireplace, luxury first floor master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. \$619,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SW ANN ARBOR – This stunning 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath transitional contemporary features a wonderful floor plan and a long list of upgrades. You'll love this convenient location just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor, shopping, schools, and UM stadium. The setting is special and located on a quiet private lane with great deck, extensive landscaping, and pond. The interior features great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, custom kitchen with painted maple cabinets and granite counters, den, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling, remodeled bath, and finished basement. \$434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - LAKE FOREST HIGHLANDS – Move-in condition 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This home is wonderful inside and out. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac lot you will love the spacious lot, large backyard, and great deck. The interior sparkles and features great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open concept kitchen with quartz counters, luxury master suite, and finished lower level with rec room, bedroom, and bath. \$399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

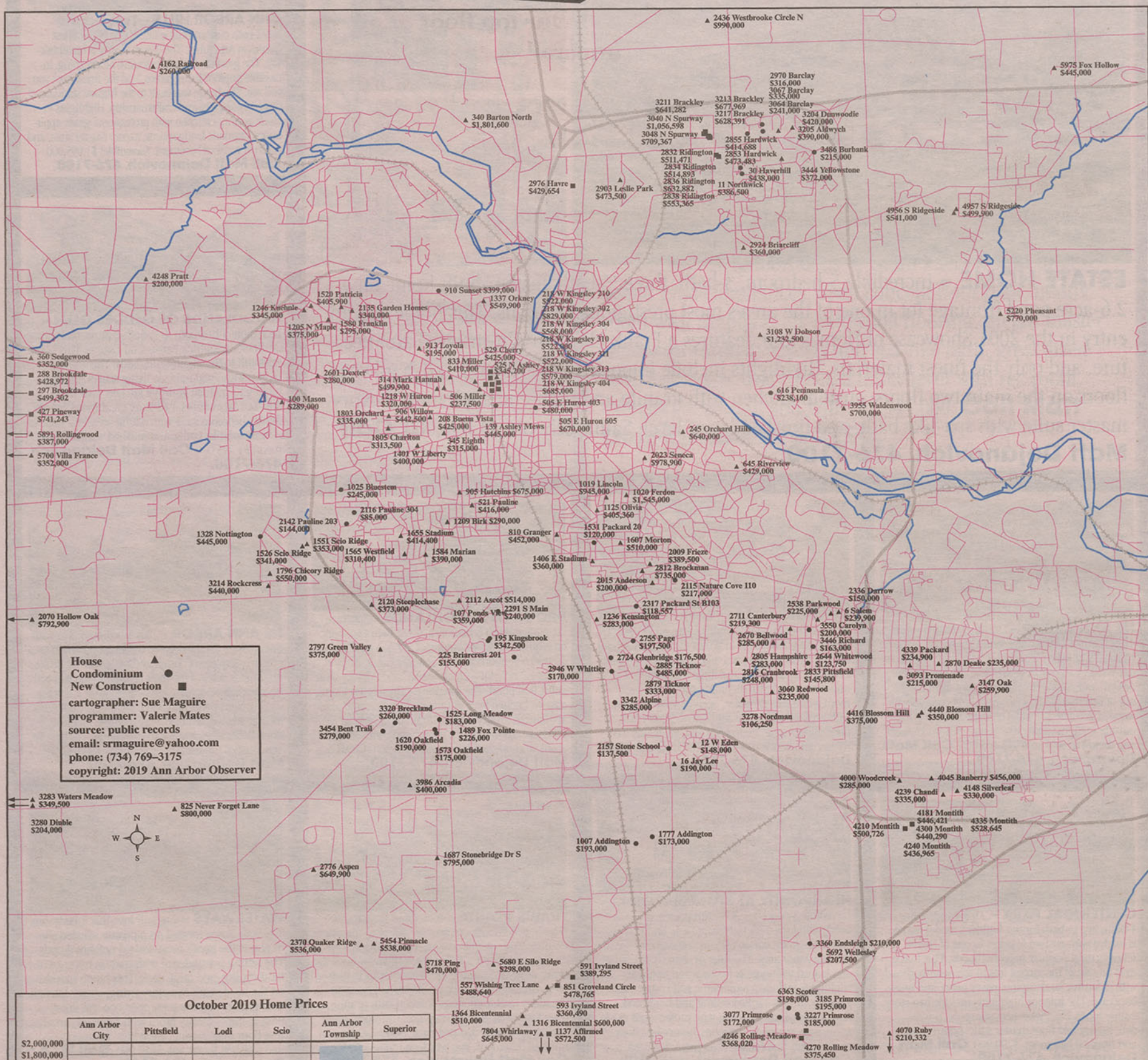


TORWOOD – Perfect 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial backing to protected common area in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. Incredible setting with extensive landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. Interior highlights include perfect décor, remodeled kitchen with quartz counter tops and stainless steel appliances, open concept family room with fireplace, great master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CHAPEL HILL CONDO – This 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo has been completely renovated. It is gorgeous! Located in one of the most sought-after complexes in NE Ann Arbor you will love the proximity to NCRC, US-23, and downtown. The highlights of this unit include remodeled kitchen with custom cabinets, quartz countertops, and stainless appliances, all-laminate wood flooring throughout, spacious living room, nice master suite with remodeled bath, and partially finished basement. \$249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OCTOBER 2019 HOME SALES



How do housing prices compare in the city and the townships? Our chart shows the maximum and minimum prices for homes sold in October in each municipality in our coverage area (the Ann Arbor zip codes and school district), along their median prices (half cost more, half cost less). The sales range from \$85,000 for a condo in the city to \$1.8 million for a house in Barton Hills in Ann Arbor Township.

Walden II). Also in the city, a tiny house in the Springwater subdivision southwest of the corner of Packard and Platt at 3278 Nordman sold for \$106,250. This one-bath, 634-square-foot home built in 1941 was likely transferred between family members, but other small single-family homes in the city also went for under \$200,000 in Forestbrooke on the south-east side (2336 Darrow for \$150,000, a one-bath, 1,008-square-foot home built in 1961), in Stoneybrook on the south side (16 Jay Lee

That lowest-priced home was a one-bedroom, one-bath, 732-square-foot condo at 2116 Pauline in Summit View (the renamed

Ct. for \$190,000, a three-bedroom, one bath, 1080-square-foot home built in 1971), and for \$195,000 in the Mixtwood Pomona Park area that some call "Upper Water Hill" (913 Loyola, a three-bedroom, one-bath, 864-square-foot home built in 1953).

The highest-priced sale was at 340 Barton North Dr. This 1920s estate on 8.88 acres, originally listed at \$2.5 million, has six bedrooms and 4.5 baths. According to the listing, its 6,628 square feet are highlighted by "grand proportions," a huge fireplace and leaded glass windows.

Three other sales topped \$1 million. All were in the city of Ann Arbor, including a new North Oaks condo northwest of Nixon and Dhu Varren. The three-bedroom, 4.5-bath, 2,784-square-foot "villa" at 3040 N. Spurway

features a walkout basement, sunroom, fireplace, and high-end appliances, and sold for \$1,056,598.

Ann Arbor Township's six sales in the school district set the benchmarks for the highest minimum and the maximum prices. The least expensive home sold in the township cost more than 75 percent of the homes sold in the city.

Pittsfield, Lodi, and Scio sales in the school district were all similarly variable, with lowest prices around \$200,000 and highest prices between \$740,000 and \$800,000. The two school district homes sold in Superior in October went for \$770,000 and \$445,000, a typical range for the township.

—Sue Maguire



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Includes 2 premium underground parking garage spaces.

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Amenities include a heated outdoor pool and fitness center privileges.

Before you sign any other premium apartment lease in Ann Arbor you really must check this out... or you may regret it!

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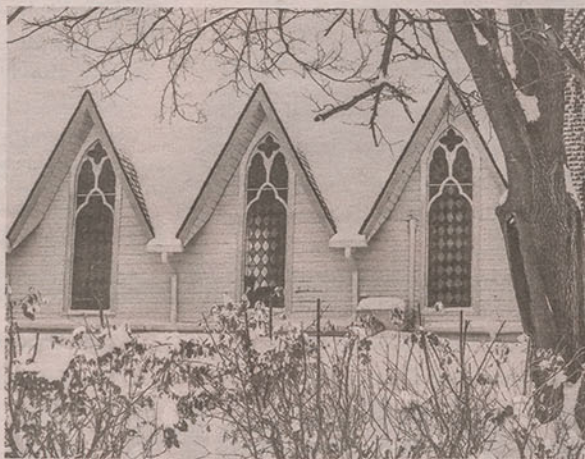
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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

November's I Spy is "the lovely maize and blue interactive wings painted by artist Kelsey Montague," writes Judith Taylor. Montague's 2018 mural Michigan Wings, one of many pairs of wings she's painted around the world, is "on the Tower Plaza Condominium building at William and Maynard," writes Joe Stapish, "right across from NYPD!"



Where is this charming church nestled?

Barb Tester reports that it "was a joint initiative with U of M Social and U of M Arts & Culture along with Destination Ann Arbor and the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority."

"It was purposefully designed to be instagram worthy!" writes Shannon Kohlitz.

Ritta Huff points out that "many U of M students have their graduation pics taken with the wings." The mural is "meant to bolster the University's social media presence," continues Taylor, "but also shows the 'Town and



Gown' aspect of Ann Arbor." "I love all the little U of M and Ann Arbor details in the artwork," says Alice King. It "features the Law Quad, the brass M, the Burton Tower ... and the iconic wing design of the U of M football helmet," writes David Karl. "I now have a bucket list," concludes Taylor, "I need a picture with these wings!"

Twenty-two people correctly identified Michigan Wings. Tester won our random drawing and will enjoy her \$25 gift certificate at Zingerman's.

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

Funny story.

Remember a few months ago when we forgot to include the previous month's winner's name in the Fake Ad Update? And we apologized and said it would never happen again?

Well, about that last part ...

Somehow we omitted Ken Koorhan's last name from the November update. We tried to make up for it by emailing all our frequent Fake Adders, but even so, only 114 people correctly identified the Fake Ad for First Impressions Personality Coaching in the Services section on page 82.

Sergeant Bilko or Han Solo,
it's the character they'll remember.
Let yours shine!

**First Impression
Personality Coaching**

www.firstimpressionpersonalitycoaching.com



"I guess since Ken has no last name, a name is not important," wrote Cathy Strachan. "After all, it's the character they'll remember," she continued, quoting the ad.

Speaking of character, we're responding to our error that made the contest

so difficult last month by making it even more difficult this month. Our winner was Martha Jennings. Martha, please let us know where you

would like to take your gift card!

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.

To enter, email backpage@aaobserver.com or write to Back Page, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Tuesday, December 10, will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

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THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

November winners:
Al G. & Jane S.

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 76, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 10.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

Merry Christmas!



**11th Annual Lucy Ann Lance
Hometown Christmas Show**

Live from Briarwood Mall
JC Penney wing

Saturday, December 14 9AM-5PM
Rebroadcast on December 21 9AM-5PM

On Air at 1290 WLBY
Online at 1290WLBY.com
Produced by Lance & Erskine Communications

1290AM WLBY
ANN ARBOR'S TALK STATION

Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 59. Films: p. 70. Galleries: p. 73. Kids: p. 74. Nightspots begin on p. 56.

►Reviewed in this issue. See p. 59

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Mezzo-soprano Rebecca Myers, Dec. 1
- Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Dec. 1
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 6
- Today's Brass Quintet Croissant Concert, Dec. 7
- University Choral Union *Messiah*, Dec. 7 & 8
- Avant-garde violinist Dixon's Violin, Dec. 7
- Ann Arbor TubaChristmas, Dec. 8
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 8
- Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Dec. 10
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 13 & 14
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 13
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 14
- Local churches' "Lessons & Carols," Dec. 15 & 24
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Dec. 15
- Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 15
- Northside Community Church Christmas Choir Concert, Dec. 15
- Baritone Samuel Kidd, Dec. 20
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 21

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

- Dave Keeney & Sophia Hanifi (folk-rock) and Chris Buhalis (singer-songwriter), Dec. 4
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 6
- Katie Geddes & Friends (folk), Dec. 13
- Frontier Barbershop Quartet, Dec. 13
- Kerrytown Concert House Holiday Radio Hour Variety Show, Dec. 14
- Jason Dennie & Friends (singer-songwriter), Dec. 21
- Jeff Daniels (singer-songwriter), Dec. 26-29 & 31
- Mittenfest Michigan bands showcase, Dec. 27-29
- Pete Siers (jazz), Dec. 31
- See *Nightspots*, p. 56, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, Blue LLama, & other clubs.

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- DJ Whittington's *Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto* (Theatre Nova), every Fri.-Sun.
- *The Secret Garden* (Encore Musical Theatre), Thurs.-Sun, Dec. 1-22
- *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé* (Purple Rose), Wed.-Sun. through Dec. 21
- *The Grapes of Wrath* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 5-8
- *A New Brain* (U-M Musical Theatre), Dec. 5-8
- *A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol* (Saline Area Players), Dec. 5-8
- *Vital Eyes* (U-M Dance BFA Concert), Dec. 5-7
- *Yeomen of the Guard* (U-M Gilbert and Sullivan), Dec. 5-8
- *Sleeping Beauty* ballet (EMU Music & Dance), Dec. 6
- *Still Life with Iris* (EMU Theatre), Dec. 6-8 & 13-15

- *The Nutcracker* (Ballet Chelsea), Dec. 7, 8, 14, & 15
- U-M Theatre Annual Clown Show, Dec. 12
- *The Santaland Diaries* (Kickshaw Theatre), Dec. 13-15, 21, & 22
- *A Man for Christmas: A Made for TV Musical Parody* (Neighborhood Theatre), Dec. 13-15
- *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Michigan Irish Repertory Theatre), Dec. 14 & 15
- *The Nutcracker* (Academy of Russian Classical Ballet), Dec. 14
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 14 & 15.
- Salto Dance Company, Dec. 14
- *The Nutcracker* (Randazzo Dance), Dec. 21 & 22.

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Moth StorySLAM, Dec. 3 & 17
- Comic Moody McCarthy, Dec. 5-7
- Comic Al Jackson, Dec. 12-14
- Performance artist Taylor Mac's "Holiday Sauce," Dec. 14
- Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Ladies Dancing" show, Dec. 18
- Comic David Dyer, Dec. 19-21
- Comic Rob Little, Dec. 26-28
- Comic Kristin Kay, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Rails on Wheels Model Railroad Show, Dec. 1
- Kerrytown Kindfest & Main St. Midnight Madness, Dec. 6
- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 6-8
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 6-8
- Dexter Historical Society Christmas at Gordon Hall, Dec. 7 & 8
- Manchester Christmas in the Village, Dec. 7
- Waterloo Farm Museum Christmas on the Farm, Dec. 7 & 8
- Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas, Dec. 8

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Poet Arthur Sze, Dec. 3
- Memoirist Grace Talusan, Dec. 3
- U-M Nobel Symposium, Dec. 10

Family & Kids' Stuff

See *Kids 12 & Under*, p. 74, for most kids events.

- Gemini family concert, Dec. 1
- Okee-Dokee Brothers kids show, Dec. 8

Miscellaneous

- Local churches' "Living Nativity," Dec. 6 & 24
- Grand Traditions 19th-Century Ball, Dec. 14

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Annual Sacred Song "Seasonal Celebration," Dec. 7

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DECEMBER EVENTS



Holiday Bed & Crib Drive

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Kerrytown Concert House // 12.1.19

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